

**MASSPIRG
saved by
Beacon
Hill bust**

See page 7



**Local
artist's
urban
images**

See page 14



Pick of the week

R&B photo exhibit to hit the gallery. Read about related events set for next month.

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Bentley Library
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NECC Observer

Vol. 44, No. 3

Northern Essex Community College

More Lawrence classes

NECC aims for broader choices to avoid 'minority campus'

By **ROBERT COMEAU
& JAMIE CRESPO**
Observer News Editors

NECC planners are working to achieve greater racial diversity and more convenient class scheduling at the Lawrence campus this fall, while trying to save programs from the state's budget ax.

The largest change at Lawrence will be the nursing program's move, adding from 250 to 300 students to the campus in September.

The nursing program has historically enrolled a relatively small percentage of minorities, due mostly to language barriers, not a lack of recruitment efforts, said Paul Bevilacqua, chairperson, division of human services and health professions.

Nursing move: The nearly all-white program is moving to a city that's over 40 percent Hispanic.

Last semester, 53 percent of the students at the Lawrence campus were Hispanic.

Bevilacqua said although he doesn't expect a big rise in nursing's minority enrollment this fall, he hopes for increases within three or four years.

He said if the program could get a full-time, bilingual and bicultural instructor, it would boost minority recruitment.

Breaking barriers: Much of the campus' Hispanic student population is learning or strengthening its English through courses at NECC Lawrence.

Katherine Rodger, Lawrence campus director, said 35 out of 85 classes now offered there are English as a second language (ESL) courses.

President John Dimitry said the upcoming nursing move to Lawrence will not squeeze out ESL courses, but their number may dwindle in future years as fewer non-English speakers immigrate to the area.

"The last thing we want is an ESL campus," he said. "We've got to have a variety of

programs for a variety of people."

Expected lure: He said nursing will act as a magnet program in Lawrence, attracting students regardless of the neighborhood.

Having nursing at Lawrence may also save the program from future state cuts, he said.

The Higher Education Coordinating Council looks like it will be cutting some high-cost, low-enrollment programs, such as some in the health fields, which colleges and universities with overlapping service areas duplicate, he said.

NECC, Middlesex Community College and North Shore Community College all offer health field curriculums in northeastern Massachusetts.

Closer rivals: Dimitry said North Shore is planning to move their nursing program to Danvers, and Middlesex is planning a move to Lowell. With NECC's nursing at Lawrence, this would bring three competing programs into even more constricted service areas.

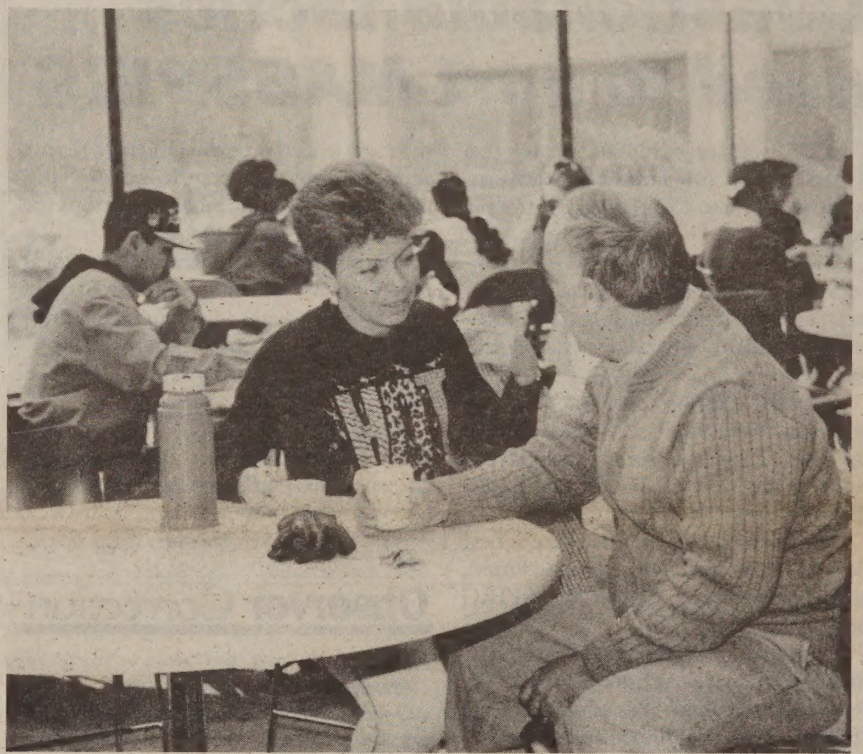
Nursing enrollment has risen nationally for the last four years, and Dimitry said the high-enrollment program was probably not threatened, but lower enrollment, high-cost programs like respiratory therapy, radiological technology, dental assistant and medical records technology are.

Dimitry said these programs are slated to move to Lawrence in fall 1993, and since they share equipment with nursing and each other, the move saves money.

Having the smaller health programs integrated with a highly regarded nursing program at Lawrence will make cutting those programs in the struggling city difficult for the state to justify, he said.

More room: Bevilacqua said the health programs will also improve academically, as they will get almost twice the space they have at Haverhill.

The construction for incoming programs and classes has created problems in scheduling the first two semesters at Lawrence, said



Developing campus

H. Eichhorn photo

LAWRENCE CAMPUS staffer Nunzio DIMarca counsels student on break in the atrium.

Robert MacDonald, dean of academic affairs.

He said this should be resolved for fall scheduling, after complete construction lets planners know definite classroom availability.

Students were also finding course scheduling difficult in Lawrence because the majority of classes were held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but this will be remedied in the fall, he said.

Class trouble: "If a student was looking

to take more courses, their options were limited because of this heavy duplication," he said.

MacDonald said the campus will soon have a wider selection of courses.

NECC is planning to increase math and science courses in Lawrence, and possibly add the law enforcement program, he said.

"We're hoping to do a better job of putting course packages together," he said.

Scholarship to honor professor

Spurk memory kept alive through financial award

By **RICHARD HOYER-ELLEFSEN**
Observer News Editor

Students who can't afford tuition bills will soon have one more solution to the financial challenge of education. A scholarship is being established in honor of the late John Spurk, former NECC history and government professor.

According to the board of trustees, Spurk bequeathed \$5,000 in his will for the scholarship, which he suggested be established shortly before his passing. Family, friends and colleagues have also made generous contributions to the fund, which has now grown to more than \$6,500.



File photo

FORMER NECC professor, John Spurk

The scholarship is to be awarded each year, paid for by the interest earned from the principal of the fund. Haverhill residents in a liberal arts program will be eligible if they have at least 12 credits and a GPA no lower than a 3.2.

Educational benefits: In order to apply for the program, students must submit with their application an essay of 200-500 words

(Continued on page 5)

Spring enrollment may soon top 10,000

By **MICHAEL B. PIERCE**
Observer Editor

For the first time in NECC's history, spring enrollment may surpass 10,000.

Recent numbers showed that 3,317 day students and 6,705 division of continuing education (DCE) and non-credit students made up the individual head count.

Head count is up approximately 14 percent as of the same time last year.

Budgeting system: For budgeting reasons, the college doesn't calculate enrollment in terms of actual head count, but figures it through a system of full-time equivalence (FTE). This is achieved by adding together all the credits that students are taking and then dividing this number by 15.

The FTE number went up 5 percent as compared to spring 1991.

Norm Landry, dean of student affairs, said several reasons exist for the increase.

"We have a tremendous array of the courses people want at the time and price they want," he said. "That is why we have a demand."

Easy access: The college also flourishes because of its accessibility and other campuses, according to Landry.

"We're well located and easy to get to," he said. "We also have a big campus in Lawrence, and well-located extension campuses."

Cost also accounts for some of the increase.

"Tuition and fees have at least doubled in four years," said John Dimitry, NECC

(Continued on page 7)

Equity now due

Lawrence deserves fuller range of courses as campus develops

NECC should be applauded for its efforts in developing the Lawrence campus.

Its service to the city's large number of linguistic minorities through English as a second language courses helps stop the poverty cycle that many immigrant families with poor communications skills face.

Incoming health field programs will diversify the campus, and its shrewd placement there may have saved NECC's funding and faculty while preserving local residents' health career options.

Nursing will be the campus' largest program and its flagship; the city's population must be represented in its enrollment for NECC to have a true Lawrence

Observer Editorials

campus. The concept of hiring a bilingual, bicultural nursing full-timer to aid recruitment is also necessary and just.

If efforts to find qualified minority applicants for the program fail, they must be nurtured, as President John Dimitry has rightly suggested.

This is Lawrence's campus, which was instituted when the 1984 riots rocked the city and woke the state and country to her problems and prompted creation of the Lawrence Education and Employment Program. That cannot be forgotten. (See related news story, page one)

Questionable tactics used to hurt MASSPIRG

The legislature's recent attack on MASSPIRG demonstrates how government would like to keep young people politically inert.

Its bill was not designed out of concern for students' welfare, as claimed, but as an attempt to kill funding for a bothersome student- and citizen- based lobbying group.

Happily, the bill was not designed well. Lawmakers will now have to brush up on their legalese and try again if they want to hit MASSPIRG. We hope this never happens.

The group may be the state's best hope for an environmentally sound future, and it's time Beacon Hill let MASSPIRG be.

Its record of accomplishments in the State House is enough to justify its current funding system. Banning it violates student rights, since individual campuses have decided to adopt the funding system

through a student vote. In their recent action, lawmakers seem to be implying that students can not make decisions for themselves.

State House politicians with the local exception of Amesbury Democrat Barbara Hildt don't have student rights in mind. On the contrary, they seem more interested in serving themselves than the public.

Getting rid of a group of 'meddling kids' would make their jobs easier, but citizens would suffer for it. It just doesn't have to be this way.

(See related story, page seven)

Observer Correction

Editor's note:

In our last issue, Patricia A. Rowe's name was mistakenly left off the Dean's List. Congratulations to Ms. Rowe and everyone else who received this academic honor.

Students love new cartoon, hope to see more work soon

To the editor:

Whose idea was it to put a comic strip in the *Observer*? Finally, you're giving the school's artists a chance to show their stuff.

Who draws *Manston City*? I know Matt Groening does *Life in Hell*, and is famous for *The Simpsons*, but what are guys from *Manston City* famous for? I'd love to buy some of their material.

Thanks,

Bill Stavins, liberal arts

To the editor:

Thanks for putting an on-going comic

Observer Letters

strip in the *Observer*. *Manston City* has that rock and roll, kick-ass attitude that a strip needs. Are you going to add any more comics to the paper? If so, how do I get in on it?

Al Boyle,
business transfer

Editor's note:

Glad to hear you like the new additions to the newspaper. Contact arts editor Josh Bernard for details about joining the staff.

NECC Observer

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The NECC Observer is a public forum dedicated to the ideals of quality journalism. To contribute...

Signed letters or guest columns are always welcome, especially if they concern NECC campus events, people, or issues. Due to space limitations, we reserve the right to edit all material. Deadline for next issue—March 4.

National Pacemaker Award—Associated Collegiate Press

Medalist Award—Columbia Scholastic Press Association



Right to privacy

Technology sacrifices personal freedom

By DEBORAH AHERN
Observer Staff Reporter

Where privacy is lost, the loss of personal freedom soon follows. History has proved that fact time and again.

Wiretapping took place as early as the Civil War, when tapping enemy lines was prevalent.

From the turn of the century, with the invention of the telegraph and telephone, every advance in communications technology was closely followed by the development of eavesdropping techniques.

In 1934, Congress enacted the Federal Communications Act, which prohibited the interception and subsequent use or disclosure of telephone or radio conversations, but it did not apply to those conducted by state authorities. It also failed to cover emerging forms of electronic eavesdropping accomplished by hidden microphones or other bugging devices.

Personal data exposed: Recent advances in information and telecommunications technologies have greatly expanded the collection of personal data available on everyone. This has improved the speed and access with which this data can be retrieved and given out indiscriminately.

We're becoming a nation of people who live in glass houses. Invasive technologies combined with lax laws opens us to vast scrutiny by outsiders.

Data bases, a hidden threat to privacy, are probing our every action.

Just by filling out a warranty card, vital statistics about us are going to the National Demographics and Lifestyles Association, putting us automatically on hundreds of mailing lists. Lotus and Equifax, companies which compile financial information about people, wanted to make available to anyone with a personal computer, a list of names, buying habits and income levels of any household. Fortunately the government put a halt to that action.

The "Big Three" credit bureaus compile credit reports on every bill-paying citizen, and those reports are readily sold to anyone who professes a "legitimate interest" in them. The bureaus have failed to correct many serious reporting errors, which led to the Fair Credit Reporting Act. Now at least they must provide consumers with a free copy of their report.

Testing prospective employees: Surveillance in the workplace, such as drug testing, monitored phone calls and psychological testing as a condition for employment is alarming privacy "watchdogs." Employers Information Service will provide reports on prospective employees, including history of prior job injuries, workers compensation claims, or lawsuits.

If your mother warned you that your report card would follow you through life, she is more insightful than you might think. A nationwide data base of high-school records has been compiled by the American Business Conference and the Educational Testing Service to give employers attendance records and report cards back to the ninth grade.

Observer Column

Neighborhood retailers stock items that used to be only in spy novels. So the snoops are getting the upper hand these days!

Where James Bond shops: The CCS Counter Spy Shop "has products for the man who has everything and wants to keep it," according to the *Wall Street Journal*. If you're in the market for a terrorist proof limousine, tear gas pen, voice scrambler, night vision scope, look no further!

They also stock a recording briefcase that captures conversations up to 15 meters away, with a microphone hidden behind the lock. You simply flip down the handle to start recording. A pocket pen can also record conversations from a similar distance. The wireless "Earspy" fits into the ear and receives clear conversation from any radio transmitter. For the real truth, you may purchase the voice stress analyzer.

Orwell's 1984: We think of threats to privacy in Orwellian terms, with Big Brother seeing all government as the major offender. The threat is equally offensive from private citizens and private companies.

The biggest question in solving this problem is: what price do we put on privacy? That question cannot be answered until we are willing to sacrifice such things as convenience shopping, banking, job opportunities, law enforcement and higher productivity.

People vacillate between a basic instinct to mind their own business and the human urge to spy. Society's values and expectations are in flux. We've become a nation of tell all memoirs and interviews, and we're paying the price.

Although the word "privacy" does not appear in the Constitution, former Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis stated that "the right to be let alone is the prerequisite of a tolerable life."

Morton Bromfield, executive director of The American Privacy Foundation, based in Wellesley, believes "computer records are merely historical records," and "phone tapping uniquely provides live, more sensitive, manipulative information: what the target is doing, his reasoning, his intentions."

Bromfield stressed that George Orwell's 1984 was a societal horror based on live surveillance of those worth watching: by the security police, informers and through the use of the telephone. Orwell warned, "They could plug in on your wire whenever they wanted to."

New technology: Today's computerized electronic switching enables difficult-to-detect tapping of wired phone calls remote to a telephone exchange.

"Teenage hackers armed with simply a Christmas computer, a modem and the password, tap for fun. We read of this often. Industrial espionage firms, hardly ever mentioned, tap for power and profit at will," Bromfield said.

It costs to meaningfully invade privacy. Because freedom in the United States has more protection of privacy laws, the methods to invade privacy are highly sophisticated.

(continued on page 3)

Magic of a different sort

Basketball great should not play in Barcelona Olympics

By GEOFF LECAIN
Observer Opinion Editor

Unbelievable, remarkable, heroic—Magic Johnson's play in the NBA All-Star Game could be described with any or all of these words. The game, and the retiring of his number, would make a great farewell.

Everybody knows that Magic wants to play again in the Olympics, and may even try to play in the NBA playoffs. Fans would love to see Magic vs. Bird one more time, but it is not worth the risk to Magic's health. He should not play in either; he should get on with his life outside of basketball.

Oooh. His health. A very touchy subject, but one everybody has discussed since his announcement on Nov. 7 that he tested positive for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. The disease has become one of the deadliest and scariest the world has ever seen. The worst part of it is even the doctors do not know all the ways the virus is transmitted.

Rough sport: This fact by itself has caused much discomfort among people believing the disease can be transmitted during a basketball game by a flying elbow that draws blood, or two heads butting together with the same result, all common occurrences in NBA games. The All-Star game, everyone must remember, is an exhibition the players do not take as seriously as the fans do.

If there is even the most remote possibility of another player being affected by Magic's playing in the Olympics, where the play is just as rough as the NBA, he should not play. Giving him an assistant coaching job would allow him to represent America without endangering himself or any other players.

The simple facts are that nobody knows whether or not such an accident will occur. Accidents cannot be predicted, but Magic can control the possibilities of this happening by not participating.

Class act: Basketball fans who have watched Magic play over the years have grown to admire him not only for his playing abilities, but also for the way he has handled himself off the court. He is standing up to this battle like he has stood up to every other

From the Hip

challenge in his life—with class. However, stepping down gracefully and focusing all his energies on educating people about this horrible disease will do more good than him playing one last game.

A couple of years ago, an above-average baseball player, Alan Wiggins, died of AIDS. News editors around the country decided his death warranted only a paragraph or so on the obituary page. The same thing happened with a champion race car driver, Tim Richmond. America has come a long way since these deaths, largely because of Magic's handling of this disease.

He cannot stop now because the world still has much to learn from him. With his help, people afflicted with the disease may someday soon be able to raise their heads and openly admit having the disease.

Basketball ruled Magic's life for years, and retiring is difficult for any athlete, especially a competitive one like Magic. They always want to return to action, and the fans want to see it. The fans must understand that his health is more important than their satisfaction, however.

Good teacher: Magic wowed the country for more than a decade, and God willing, he will be able to educate the public on the dangers of unprotected sex, and show them that one man can make a big difference. Magic has that special ability to communicate that can get across to children and adults alike. He should now use this ability to calm our fears, and learn all there is to know about this mysterious disease.

His life has been one of dreams, a living out of most people's fantasies. Unfortunately, by teasing fans with his obvious desire to play competitively, he is merely shortening the amount of time he will be able to spend in his new role as AIDS educator.

Magic feels he has something to prove to all those people who feel AIDS patients are incapable of doing anything. Well, he certainly did that with his All-Star performance, and he should now look beyond basketball.



Surely, his fans will understand and support him even if he does not play another second of competitive basketball. Everybody wants to see him beat this, but if he keeps pushing his body to the limit, his life will probably be cut even shorter.

He has changed many people's views about HIV already, and he will change more in the years to come. He is Earvin Johnson, and by making the tough decision to stop playing, he will once again remind the world why he is commonly known as Magic.

Should Johnson play in the Olympics?



Jessie Garneau, teacher prep
"Yes, the chances of an accident or something happening are so small that they are not even worth worrying about."



George Salivy, civil engineer
"Sure, why not? His health is an issue, but they (Olympic Committee) should be nice guys and let him play."



Joanna Russ, medical billing
"Sure. If he can't harm anybody, he should play. I don't see anything wrong with it."



Rafael Conde, creative arts
"I think so, yes. He is a great athlete, and I think he should play."



Charlie Guido, liberal arts
"Yes. There may be a chance that something could happen, but there are chances in everyday life, too."

Geoff LeCain and Jamie Crespo photos

Privacy— from page 2

"Legislation is adequate for all forms of privacy invasion," Bromfield said. "The problem is enforcement."

Most individuals object to the concept of having the person they are calling know their number beforehand. How would they feel about a third party intercepting their

conversation and listening to every word? There are no safeguards, however.

"Caller I.D. has in place the technology that can be economically adapted to ferret out illegal taps," Bromfield said.

Proposed solutions: Legislation presented by New Hampshire Sen.

Warren Rudman advocates the Privacy for Consumers and Workers Act. He hopes to prevent potential abuses of electronic monitoring in the work place.

The proposal states that each employer who engages in electronic monitoring must provide the affected employee with prior written notice describing what they're doing. The data collected may not be used as the sole basis for evaluation. This does not apply to monitoring

conducted by law enforcement agencies.

Gary T. Marx, an M.I.T. professor who specializes in privacy issues, is urging Congress to establish a royalty system to compensate individuals whenever personal information about them is sold.

"If we are to treat personal information as a commodity, it seems only fair that those to whom it pertains ought to control it and share in financial gain from its sale,"

Marx said.

No easy solutions: Forms of privacy intrusion are so numerous and varied that no single remedy applies to them all, yet the incentive is compelling to maintain personal freedom, which is lost without privacy.

Bromfield commented on what he learned in 18 years of privacy research: "Enforce every privacy law to the hilt, save one, on phone tapping, and a police state can be."

Teacher lives his life to fullest

MacMaster uses experiences in Africa to enhance his life in America

By MARK PALERMO
Observer Guest Contributor

Don MacMaster has lived among the Masai, Warusha, and Wameru tribes. In the mid-1960s, he worked for McGraw-Hill as a traveling sales rep, the company's first in East Africa.

His kids, having had part of their education in a Swahili-speaking traditional African village, are equally at home in American schools, where they are well-adjusted "A" students. MacMaster's own education has come not only from books, but also from a rich smorgasbord of multicultural life experiences, which he brings to his work as an English as a second language (ESL) teacher at NECC's Lawrence campus.

It has been said that there are no accidents in the universe. And each of us are, at any given moment, where we were meant to be. If that is true, one can only wonder at the design behind the unseen hand of destiny that moves us about the earth, and has moved MacMaster from East Africa to a NECC classroom. MacMaster takes it all in stride, a living example of how diverse people are becoming, in the words of Marshall McLuhan, a "global village."

Most people, at some point, have a defining turn, significant event or circumstance from which they thereafter come to think of their own lives in terms of a "before" and "after." In talking about his own life, he is quick to say that "the turning point came in 1961."

The year he first left for Africa on a teaching assignment, John F. Kennedy was president, and the country was going through a period of unrestrained hope and optimism—which found visceral expression in ideals of social justice and brotherhood.

Thirty years later, MacMaster describes himself as "still an idealist."

Childhood: He was born in New York City and raised in Evanston, Ill. Renowned as the home of the National Funeral Directors Association and the Women's Christian Temperance Union, Evanston was not, as he puts it, "fertile ground for wild-eyed adventures."

In his youth, he attended various Protestant churches, which he said "reinforced conventional bourgeois mentality, but also helped to develop a sense of service to community and fellow man."

Today, he practices no formal religion, but recognizes the Bible as "a practical set of rules to insure personal and social harmony."

Opinion Column

MacMaster describes his life before 1961 as that of a "cultural chauvinist." In speaking of that period, he said, "I mindlessly conformed to the unchallenged social values I grew up with."

Indisputable and pervasive throughout the 1950s were the banalities that resulted from America's insular world view: democracy is always the best form of government, America is the most civilized country, Americans are the freest people, America has a right and obligation to impose political and moral standards on the rest of the world, etc.

On a personal level, it is difficult if not impossible to relate properly to others when one's self-image is distorted and unconnected with the realities of the world. As a result one fails to order priorities and set meaningful goals.

The same is true for nations as for individuals. Americans must learn, if we are to make the world a better place, to see ourselves objectively—without jingoistic propaganda, cultural chauvinism, or the opposite extreme of excessive self-abnegation.

New awareness: MacMaster said, "Americans' awareness of other cultures, though not yet fully matured, has increased to remarkable lengths in the past 30 years."

Giving an example, he said most people still think of Africa in terms of what they have seen in *National Geographic*—whereas that compendium of primitive and backward images may only represent one percent of contemporary African life.

Living among Africans for many years, he came to admire their sense of community, sharing, and collective responsibility. Many Africans show these qualities in the most casual, unselfconscious ways. He recalls a bus trip through Zambia: A young conductor was in the aisle of the bus taking tickets. When she went to the back, she met a young boy in a tattered shirt and ragged shorts.

He held out a paper to her saying, "This is my receipt." The conductor rejected it, saying it wasn't a valid ticket. Then the two of them began to argue. As everyone in the bus became aware of the scene that was developing, an old man stood up and proposed taking up a collection "for our younger brother."

Thirty strangers pitched in and paid the boy's fare. Nobody begrudged it. But even more importantly, they did it instantly, al-



African culture explored

WORLD STUDENT Don MacMaster in a village during one of his stays in Africa. *File photo*

most without thought—without a trace of their feeling exalted or self-satisfied at their own kindness.

African life: MacMaster also admires how African laws and social institutions function to support and enhance the family unit—as opposed to some American institutions, such as the courts and probate system, which function not for family stability, but primarily for the benefit of lawyers, social workers and bureaucrats.

Of course, there are aspects of African life he dislikes as well. There is, as he puts it, "an opportunistic streak that runs through the people." While not applicable to all, there is nevertheless a capacity to discriminate against and exploit other people who are not from one's own tribe. It may be in part, he speculates, an emotional and spiritual consequence of the slave trade and abuse imposed upon them for centuries by colonial oppressors.

MacMaster remembers witnessing a motorcycle accident in Nairobi, Kenya. As a man lay badly injured, some Africans (of a different tribe) stole the injured man's watch—while MacMaster was distracted giving first aid.

He is also impressed by modern African intellectuals. Thirty years ago, they often bore

the demeanor of subtle subservience to whites—based on the ubiquity of the colonial mentality. Modern educated Africans have a greater cultural awareness of themselves among the world. Gone is the subtle subservience; in its place is a refreshing sense of egalitarianism and urbane worldliness.

Idols: MacMaster's heroes were all social revolutionaries. It is not surprising, therefore, that he views himself in similar terms. Thoreau, Eugene Debs, Christ, Jefferson, King, Clarence Darrow, Mandela—all of these men impacted the social values of their time. MacMaster believes modern Americans "have lost track of noble values of which man is capable."

He believes everyone has to wrestle with playing the world's often corrupt games, or making a stand at some point—even if there are serious consequences. Most strike some kind of compromise; some give up more readily and easily than others. But no amount of financial security can compensate for the consequences of buying into the ennui and spiritual vacuum of our time.

His ideals of youth still burning, MacMaster said, "I want to live life as fully, intensely, romantically and nobly as possible."

Some students say more courses needed in Lawrence

Administration says growing mix of students, classes ultimate goal; nursing move seen as catalyst to future success

By JAMIE CRESPO
Observer News Editor

Some students say NECC's efforts in preventing Lawrence from becoming a minority campus have come short so far.

Niurka Balbuena, NECC student, said although she lives a short distance from the Lawrence campus, she refuses to take courses there.

"I think they are giving too many ESL (English as a second language) courses," she said. "Lawrence doesn't offer too many regular courses."

Balbuena said students fluent in English are limited when choosing courses in Lawrence because of the substantial number of ESL courses in Lawrence, which according to Kathy Rodger, director of the Lawrence campus, is 35 out of 85 courses being offered.

"A college is supposed to give chances for everybody," Balbuena said. "Many non-Hispanics feel they don't have help there."

Misconception: Rodger said she does not believe Lawrence is becoming a minority campus, and feels although more than half of the students are minority, the campus is in the process of being more integrated.

"The campus is becoming something; it's not there, it's being created," she said. "We have a lot of language groups. To an outsider, it looks like a 'Latino' program."

Rodger said by fall '92, the campus will attract more non-linguistic minorities.

"You are going to see a majority of regular courses," she said.

Important move: Robert MacDonald, dean of academic affairs, said the implementation of the nursing program in Lawrence will broaden the integration at the campus.

"I think we're going to see a growing mix of students, just as we noticed even on the Haverhill campus as students moved through the ESL courses," he said.

He said the number of non-ESL courses being offered at Lawrence will increase in the fall, but the number of ESL courses will stay the same for at least another year.

"We are in the process of determining which courses will be additionally offered," he said. "They will be somewhat the same kinds of entry level courses."

MacDonald said once the renovations in Lawrence are completed, NECC will do a better job in scheduling courses, and putting better packages together for students.

"Once the construction is done, we will be offering pretty much the same amount of space," he said. "But we will offer more courses, and more of a variety of courses."

Ineffective: Although MacDonald and other NECC administrators feel moving the nursing program to Lawrence will increase integration, Balbuena said this would simply limit students not pursuing a health profession. She said implementing regular courses would be more beneficial for Lawrence.

MacDonald said he hopes to remedy this

problem by adding more math and science courses, as well as a literature course, which has not been offered at Lawrence. He said NECC is also planning to expand its criminal justice program by adding a program at the campus.

Asnaldo Mendez, liberal arts, said taking an ESL course in Haverhill helped him get familiar with the college system. Moving the course to Lawrence was a bad idea, he said.

"When I took the course in Haverhill, I was not afraid of college because I saw exactly what students were doing," he said. "It helped me get involved on campus."

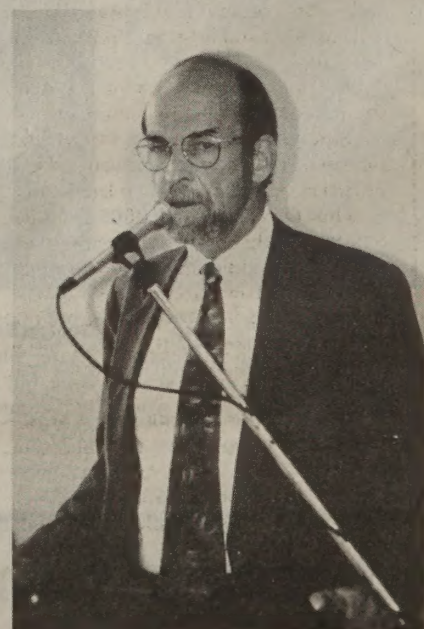
Mendez said many ESL students may be hesitant in scheduling courses in Haverhill because they will not be familiar with the campus.

Understanding: "If there were more ESL courses in Haverhill, minorities will know what a college is all about. They will have a better understanding," he said.

MacDonald said entry-level ESL courses tend to have the heaviest enrollment. He said NECC is planning to split the number of these courses for both campuses.

"We're looking into the configurations of these numbers to see whether it will be feasible to do part of the ESL's in Haverhill, and Lawrence," he said.

MacDonald said students at the Lawrence campus will have more options in the fall semester.



Diverse setting

DEAN OF academic affairs Robert MacDonald thinks the move of the nursing program will help the overall integration process at the Lawrence campus. *C. Evans photo*

Senate examines activity requests

Committee looks at club activities, needs

By JON MORRIS
Observer Managing Editor

Finance committee members are reviewing budget requests from campus clubs and organizations for the upcoming fiscal year.

Numerous requests have been made, and the committee, comprised of student senate members, is deciding how to allot the estimated \$323,357 in student activity funds.

Stephen Hopping, finance committee chairman and senate treasurer, said the committee will review different facets of a club.

Deciding worth: "We check on how well the clubs benefit the students on campus and in the club, and how active they have been in campus events," he said.

Hopping said it is too early in the decision-making process to say which clubs will get increases, but said the paralegal club and the office for various medical supplies and costs (OSD) have been very active.

Senate President John Hosty said he thinks some clubs are likely to get increases in funding.

"I'd have to say WRAZ, the *Observer*, athletics and a few other clubs would get increases because they've been active and they deserve it," he said.

All valuable: He said the dance and art clubs seem to be particularly strong, but said, "I really can't pick out certain clubs. I think they're all unique and moving forward in different ways."

The L.P.N. club requested \$5,550, with \$5,350 requested for graduation pins, uniforms, expenses and a banquet.

Parnassus, NECC's inter-arts magazine, asked for \$7,600, for the costs of the fall '92 and spring '93 issues.

The *Observer* requested \$44,000, with \$20,000 of that total going toward printing costs. It also requested \$4,400 this spring for equipment for the Lawrence campus.

Art request: The art club put in for

\$10,000, an increase of \$9,000 over last year's senate proposal.

The dance club asked for \$16,750, with \$2,000 for an assistant to the adviser and most of the remaining money for various performances.

The music club requested \$9,550, with \$8,600 for equipment costs, while the choral club asked for \$6,000, with \$5,000 for equipment.

The contemporary affairs society put in for a \$3,000 allocation, which would include the costs of the Annual Student Symposium in Washington D.C., and the Model U.N. program in New York City.

Science budget: The science and technology club requested \$1,930, which includes the cost of passes to the Computer Museum and the Museum of Science.

Student health services requested \$49,813.63, the highest request by any program, for various medical supplies and costs.

The following clubs have made requests for the following amounts: open door fellowship, \$900; radiological technology club, \$600; NECC film series, \$2,300; behavioral science, \$1,700; ski club, \$5,000; paralegal club, \$1,500; WRAZ radio station, \$6,625; social club, \$2,870; computer club, \$2,072.

Several clubs have not yet filed their requests with the finance committee.

Still to come: The athletics program, Top Notch Players, OSD, Hispanic cultural club, accounting club and several other groups are expected to file requests in the near future.

The athletics program has traditionally received the highest allocation of any group on campus.

Over the next two weeks, finance committee members will be meeting with representatives from the clubs to discuss why the requests are necessary, how the school will benefit from the allocations, and to gather all necessary information for making decisions on budget recommendations.



Janitors or mommies?

M. Pierce photo

JANITORS MUST routinely pick up trash left in the tiled lounge. A trash barrel is located just two feet away from where this photo was taken.

At a recent finance committee meeting, it was decided that committee members associated with any of the clubs will not be responsible for meeting with that club. Several members of the committee, including Hopping, who works at WRAZ, belong to various clubs.

No conflicts of interest: Hosty said it would be unethical for members to partake in any decisions concerning a club they belong to, and that any decisions based on a personal bias would be caught in the latter stages of the budget process.

"I don't think you can ask the student senate not to be in any other clubs," he said. "I haven't seen any abuse."

After the finance committee members meet with the clubs, they will inform the committee and it will make proposals on what they should be given.

The finance committee will then inform clubs on the recommended allocations, then the clubs can aggrieve the proposal. After the committee listens to grievances, it will make

Club financing

"We check on how well the clubs benefit the students on campus and in the club, and how active they have been in campus events," said Stephen Hopping, student senate finance committee chairman.

a formal suggestion to be approved by the student senate.

Hosty said the proposed budget then goes to Stephen Michaud, director of student activities; Norman Landry, dean of student affairs; President John Dimitry; and finally to the Board of Trustees in May for approval.

Spurk award — from page 1

describing the benefit education brings to students, and the benefit of education to society as a whole.

Applications will be approved by members of the history and government department, and by an approval board established by the board of trustees.

John Dimitry, NECC president, said several members have already been chosen for the board, including June Spurk, Dr. Spurk's widow; Eugene Connolly, English professor; Frank Leary, business professor; Chester Hawryliw, chairperson of humanities and communication; and Thelma Halberstadt, R.N. professor.

"We're doing the best we can to carry out his will," he said.

Connolly, who was a close friend of Spurk's for 24 years, said "I think it's just a wonderful tribute to him. A scholarship fund is in perfect keeping with his love of NECC and the students and of his willingness to make things possible. He did more for this school than anyone I know. He gave his life to education."

Connolly said Spurk began planning the scholarship while he was sick with cancer, and had his lawyers draw up a will with \$5,000 set aside for it.

Spurk remains: "He'll still be here," he said. "That's his sneaky little plan to keep educating students, even after he's gone."

Leary had been a very close friend of Spurk's since the two graduated together from Boston University in 1956.

"I think it's very appropriate for a man who dedicated his entire life to education," he said. "He was always interested in doing that little bit extra for both the school and the students. He loved NECC and he loved them."

Norm Landry, dean of student affairs, said there has also been discussion of publishing a history of NECC's first 25 years, written by Spurk, which has sat unpublished for two

years due to lack of funding.

Off the shelves: "He finished the book two years ago, but there wasn't enough money to edit and publish it," he said. "Now a good friend of his has offered to edit it for free."

Robert Eddy, a professor at Boston University (BU), came to NECC in 1967 as a freshmen, and took a western civilization class taught by Spurk. After leaving NECC to continue his education at BU, Eddy kept in contact with Spurk, and remained a close friend right up until his death. After Spurk's passing, he offered to edit the nearly 400 page book for free, a job involving a substantial amount of work.

"We have to make it about half the size it is now," he said.

Landry also said there is talk of naming a facility on campus after him.

"(The board) is thinking about naming lecture hall A after him, but they're not sure; it may be another facility on campus," he said.

Connolly said lecture hall A would be a very appropriate facility to name after Spurk because it is a place many staffers may associate with him.

School spirit: "Very often as I go around campus, I remember places where I once stood speaking with him, and I can still see him there," he said. "There were so many meetings held in (lecture hall A) while he was here, and he was always there, arguing for this or proposing that."

President Dimitry agreed.

"A lot of people here associate the room with him," he said. "He often provided leadership there. It's appropriate to name it after him."

NECC faculty and staff were greatly saddened when Spurk died of lung cancer in December.

"It was like a great tree falling on a horizon," Connolly said. "And it left this great space there that can never be filled."

Now the details...

Clubs request money from \$323,357 pool available for next year's student activities

By JON MORRIS
Observer Managing Editor

Numerous budget requests have been submitted by clubs and organizations. All clubs were required to give a total dollar value desired and list what they need the funds for.

The following is a list of key items submitted with each budget request.

Student health services: \$49,813.63, for cost of first aid, emergency care, weekly physician hours, and other related costs.

The *Observer*: \$44,000, includes \$20,000 for the cost of printing the newspaper, and an additional \$4,400 for equipment for the Lawrence campus.

Dance club: \$16,750, includes \$4,000 for master classes, \$5,075 for a spring dance performance, and \$2,975 for a fall performance.

The art club: \$10,000, for cost of a copy machine, art supplies and equipment.

The music club: \$9,550, includes \$8,600 for equipment, \$300 for repairs.

***Parnassus*:** \$7,600, with \$6,000 for the costs of printing the fall '92 and spring '93 issues, and \$1,600 for layout costs.

WRAZ radio station: \$6,625, includes \$2,500 for new music, and \$2,000 for equipment maintenance.

The choral club: \$6,000, with \$5,000 for equipment, \$250 for voice training computer software, \$200 for recordings, and \$150 for after concert parties.

Nurse needs: The L.P.N., \$5,550, includes \$3,400 for graduation pins and uniforms, \$1,600 for a graduation ban-

quet, and \$350 for graduation expenses.

The ski club: \$5,000, toward the cost of three trips, including Smuggler's Notch, a February trip, and a spring break trip.

The contemporary affairs society: \$3,000, includes the costs of the Annual Student Symposium, in Washington D.C., and the Model U.N., in New York City.

The social club: \$2,870 to continue its club goal of filling "a need for individual participants in the development of social skills to the end of enhancing their employability, personal lives, and life perspectives, lending context for academic fulfillment here at NECC."

Moviegoers: The film series, \$2,300, for three films and promos.

The computer club: \$2,072, to "increase computer literacy throughout the campus by reducing computer phobia and sharing knowledge."

The science and technology club: \$1,930, includes \$1050 for pass renewals to the Museum of Science and the Computer Museum.

Behavioral budget: The behavioral science club: \$1,700, for various speakers, and the PSI Beta Awards.

The paralegal club: \$1,500, with \$900 for the paralegal pinning ceremony and related costs, \$300 for a paralegal annual speaker, and \$100 for videotapes.

The open door fellowship: \$900 request includes, \$300 for an annual lecture, \$300 for books and materials, and \$300 for retreats.

The radiological technology club: \$600 for the cost of an annual conference.



AIDS Awareness Week activities

DISCUSSING AIDS, its risk factors and prevention methods is NECC English language center professor Frank DeSarro and students.

H. Elchhorn photo

Alumni panel guides students

By BILL BURKE
Observer Managing Editor

Juggling a family and a career is difficult. Add a full course load and the task becomes nearly impossible.

Ernie Greenslade, director, public information and alumni relations, is helping put together a career workshop aimed at the increasing number of non-traditional students returning to school.

"We're putting together a panel of four or five alumni that have been away from the classroom," she said. "Some have graduated, some went on to transfer and some have gone on to successful careers."

Topics: Greenslade said the panel will discuss different careers and offer advice pertaining to career choices.

Greenslade has been involved with the career workshops for five years, and each year the panel focuses on a separate job category.

"Four years ago, we concentrated on careers in writing," she said. "We had someone involved in journalism, a writer and someone involved in PR work," she said.

The best turnout in five years of career workshops came last spring, as the concept

turned to changing careers.

Strong turnout: "Deborah Regan of the AT&T/CWA Alliance Learning Center gave a presentation and then moderated a panel of alumni that was fascinating," she said. "Sixty-five people came."

Greenslade said this year, because there are so many non-traditional students, and because the non-traditional students seem to make themselves traditional by number alone, the panel will be made up of people who have been away from the classroom for some time and have decided to return.

"Paula Strangie, a professor in the department of behavioral sciences, will lead the discussion and then give a short presentation on the issues students face upon returning to school," she said.

Greenslade said one of the reasons the workshop is being held is to let the students who have enrolled for the fall semester know they are not alone.

Help available: "We can let them know about the support available; the writing center, the math center, as well as student counseling."

Local high-school students and their guidance counselors have been invited.

"The topics discussed range from financial aid and day care to study tips," she said.

As for panel members, Greenslade points to one potential volunteer as an example.

"We have one woman who worked for New England Telephone and was doing quite well," she said. "She came to a point in her career where she decided she needed more education to get ahead. New England Telephone paid for her to come to school part-time at night, and then for her to take time off from work to finish her education. She then graduated and returned to the company."

The workshop will be held Wednesday, March 11, at 7 p.m..

Civil strife hits home in lecture

O'Malley links N. Ireland, S. Africa

By DEBBIE AHERN
Observer Staff Reporter

In a smooth, quiet brogue that had the audience sitting on the edge of their seats so not to miss a word, author/professor Padraig O'Malley found similarities in two very different places: South Africa and Northern Ireland.

O'Malley said he had no intentions of going to South Africa, but fell into the conflict.

Dealing with conflict: In Dublin in 1985, the local unions had a resolution not to handle goods from South Africa. A local woman was suspended from her job for trying to sell a grapefruit from that country. In protest, she formed a picket line of 10 people, and one year later they were still protesting in that line.

Bishop Desmond Tutu invited the picketers to visit South Africa, and O'Malley went with them. The group mailed recordings and photographs of their observations in South Africa to London for security reasons.

In July of 1985, Bishop Tutu took O'Malley and friends to Sowetto, which has a population of 1.5 million. They attended St. John's Catholic Church and were enthusiastically applauded by the Africans.

"At that point, I was hooked on South Africa," O'Malley said. "And I began to draw parallels in the behavior and psychology of the Afrikaner and the Northern Ireland Protestant."

Emerging parallels: He began to show similarities in the conflicts in both countries, followed by factors that inhibit or preclude negotiations.

The dominated group in South Africa is the blacks, and in Northern Ireland, the Catholics. In 1912, the Union of South Africa refused to accept the legitimacy of a white government; and the Catholics regarded the creation of an Irish state by the Protestants in 1920 as an illegitimate act.

Apartheid prohibits blacks from taking any part in the South African government. In Northern Ireland, even though Catholics have the right to vote, they choose not to send representatives to Parliament because that would be to recognize the legitimacy of that Parliament.

"Another way to compare the countries' similarities is in terms of demographics," O'Malley said.

Misconceptions: In both countries, Afrikaners and Protestants are the dominant groups and consider themselves superior.

"They possess the same psychology of exclusion," O'Malley said. However, the poor working class Protestants, and poor South African whites are the most threatened by change because they're at the bottom of their own socioeconomic groups and the least adaptable.

O'Malley compared these situations to the ghettos in the United States. Only the educated, or best elements are able to leave, so the victims and powerless are left behind. This serves only to increase the cleavage be-

tween the two, he said.

In these divided societies, there are deep ethnic deficiencies.

O'Malley also discussed factors that inhibit negotiations, characteristically different in each country, and also some historical background about them.

Stonewalled: "The climate for negotiations does not exist in Northern Ireland," O'Malley said. "They have more to gain from not acting; if they don't remain against an all Ireland state, they fear they'll be culturally and religiously absolved."

O'Malley pointed out that the violence is exaggerated by the media and that ordinary people aren't killed; it's usually officials.

Conversely, in South Africa, even though the government can somewhat contain the situation, it's not under control. They must negotiate 24 hours a day or be under a constant state of emergency. Dominant whites have chosen to execute power through Apartheid, with total denial of political rights is carried out with brutal force.

Nowhere to turn: "All other avenues of protest do not exist for blacks, so they've turned to violence," O'Malley said.

O'Malley warned that if negotiations break down in South Africa, there will be a bloody war.

"In Northern Ireland, I do not see significant reasons to believe both parties will join and sit around the same table. The conflict isn't brutal enough, he said.

One inquiry was in regards to the essential cause of the conflict. O'Malley emphasized that in Northern Ireland it is a "conflict of identity not religion—one can tell from 20 feet away whether another is Protestant or Catholic, the degree of sensitivity is so heightened." In South Africa, ethnicity is the basis of the prejudice.

"Sadly, the conflict becomes part of the identity of the people," O'Malley said.

Into the future: The audience prompted the speaker for more predictions for the future of these countries. He said that considering the decline in both dominant populations, Afrikaner and Protestant, change is inevitable. The white population in South Africa is 13 percent and will drop to 7 percent in 30 years, just as Protestants are intermarrying with Catholics, thereby diminishing the Protestant population.

O'Malley has a degree in economics from the University College in Dublin; conducted agricultural research for the Irish government in Dublin; is a senior associate in the John McCormick Institute of Public Affairs; has a doctorate from Tufts University; and attended Yale University on a scholarship.



File photo
AUTHOR/PROFESSOR,
Padraig O'Malley

B.U. scholarship applications still available

Each year, the NECC president is invited to nominate two people for consideration in the competition for the Boston University Trustee Scholarship for Transfer Students. Each trustee scholar will receive a two-year scholarship award covering full tuition and fees.

The NECC committee, which has been named to recommend potential candidates, has announced the following eligibility requirements and procedures:

Achievements: Students nominated must have a college grade point average of 3.5 or higher and be planning to apply for admission to Boston University for Sept. 1992 enrollment, following their graduation from NECC. This award is based upon academic achievement and personal qualities, not financial

need.

Students may apply to any one of the schools and colleges of Boston University: College for the Arts, School of Education, College of Engineering, College of Liberal Arts, School of Management, College of Communication, School of Nursing, Sargent College of Allied Health Professions and University Professors Program.

Requirements: In addition to the 3.5 grade point average requirement, students must also show academic achievement beyond normal curricular requirements and demonstration of leadership or distinctive contributions to the college and community.

Procedures for application: 1) References from at least two faculty members, preferably

one from your major study area, and at least one from an individual not connected with the college should be completed. Reference forms are available in the office of financial aid and special services, room B-217, in the applied science building.

2) You need to complete a one to two page letter of application that details your academic achievement, motivation and demonstration of leadership or distinctive contributions to the college and community.

3) The references and letter of application should be submitted by Feb. 28, to Dr. Richard Pastor, Room B-217, who is acting as liaison for the committee.

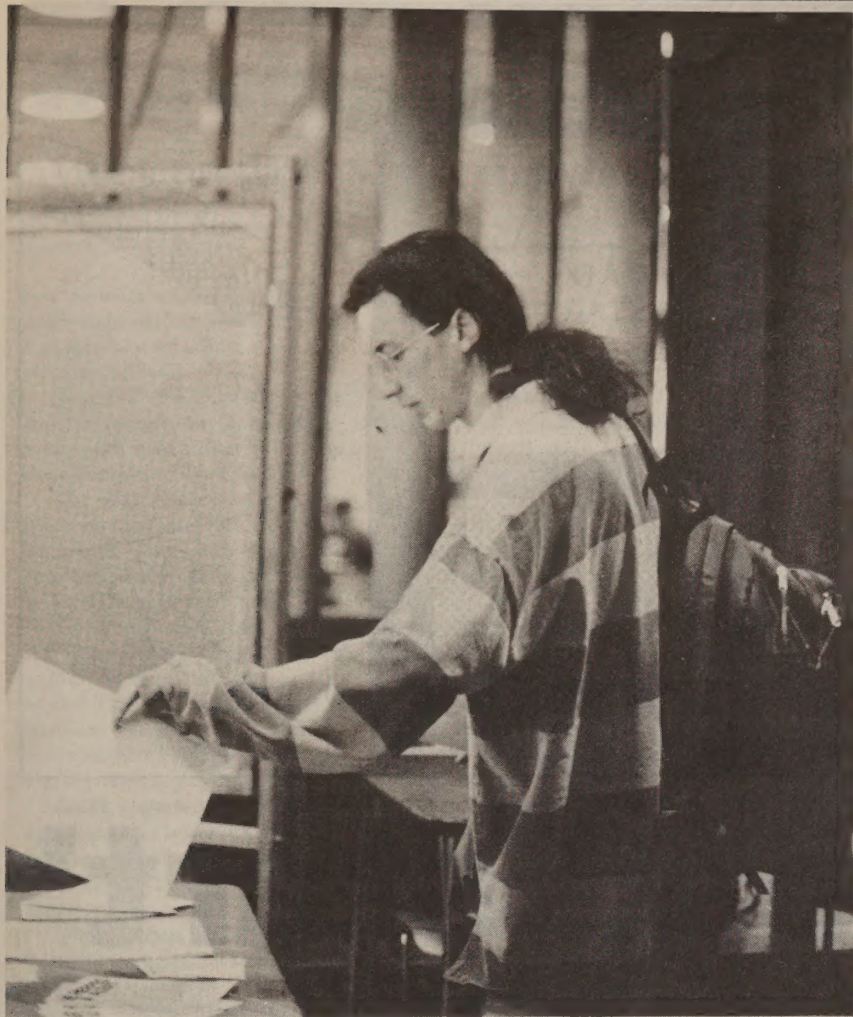
4) Finalists will be selected from the applications received, and they will be asked to

complete a scholarship essay on a topic to be suggested by Boston University for final consideration.

Application materials and additional information are available in the financial aid office B-217.

Requirements

Students nominated must have a college grade point average of 3.5 or higher.



Local activist recruits members

MASSPIRG's NECC campus organizer, Dan Cohen, checks progress at the group's information table during a membership drive in the cafeteria.

Penny Starks photo

Enrollment — from page 1

president. "NECC has the third lowest tuition and fees of the 15 community colleges in the state."

Cost important: Landry believes students are paying more attention to cost.

"Price is definitely a factor," he said. "Students have to examine more carefully where to go to school."

Landry said enrollment generally goes up when unemployment goes up.

"There's plenty of evidence that we're benefiting from the terrible job market and lost jobs," Dimitry said. "People have the time and motivation to engage in self-improvement. They know unless they engage in self-improvement, they might never get a job again."

Further education: Dimitry said the college is re-educating blue-collar and industrial workers.

"People were skilled, but jobs have disappeared," he said. "I'm happy we're helping them (to gain new skills)."

With the hopes of just learning some new skills, Dimitry said more students are taking fewer courses.

"We assume they don't have the money," he said. "As they look at the rates, they make the decision to maybe take fewer courses. But we've kept the fees relatively low."

DCE increase: As for numbers, the largest increases have come through DCE courses.

Last spring, 66 sessions were taught through DCE. This number has more than doubled this spring, according to John Peroni, dean of continuing education and community services.

The college has turned many of the day

division courses into DCE courses for budgeting reasons.

"We ran out of money," Dimitry said. "For two years, we haven't had enough money from the state to pay for employees."

Different method: By offering courses through DCE, the college has taken part-time faculty off the state payroll and paid them from the DCE funds.

"We're the only public institution in Massachusetts that hasn't laid off any full-time employees," Dimitry said.

However, Peroni said no full-time personnel has received a pay increase in four years, while part-timers have, and the college employs more part-timers than full-timers.

"In the last three or four years, we've lost 44 or 45 full-time personnel," he said. "To the best of my knowledge, we've replaced no full-timer in any job capacity. There might have been one or two exceptions, however."

Several choices: Because of the lack of funds, Peroni said Dimitry had the choice to eliminate the courses, not hire faculty, cut down on enrollments or run some courses through DCE. He chose to run more courses through DCE.

Dimitry said DCE courses are taught overwhelmingly by part-timers, but some full-timers teach them for extra compensation.

As a way to save and make money, Dimitry also asked to have the number of students per classroom raised.

"I did it because it creates efficiency in regards to the utilization of faculty," he said. "We can educate the same number of students with less faculty."

High enrollment

"There's plenty of evidence that we're benefiting from the terrible job market and lost jobs," Dimitry said. "They know unless they engage in self-improvement, they might never get a job again."



File photo

John R. Dimitry

MASSPIRG attempts to buck legislature

State tries to change group's funding method

By ROBERT COMEAU
Observer News Editor

The Massachusetts Legislature thought it had passed new funding rules for MASSPIRG, the Massachusetts Student Public Interest Research Group, but the state attorney general's office said it needs to think again.

The bill was meant to end the group's negative check-off funding method, which requires students that don't want to pay MASSPIRG's fee to note so on their tuition forms at the state's public colleges and universities. Some legislators said the system is unfair to students.

The attorney general's office has found the bill's language won't change MASSPIRG's fund-raising as intended, said office spokesperson Robert Jones.

Budget danger: The bill met little resistance from the house or senate and was signed by Gov. William Weld in December. MASSPIRG's NECC campus organizer Dan Cohen said it could have drastically cut the group's \$300,000 budget, which finances lobbyists, researchers and organizers.

MASSPIRG's negative check-off system appears on tuition bills once a campus has approved the matter by a student vote. A \$4 to \$6 MASSPIRG funding fee is then added to students' bills, unless individuals mark a box indicating they don't want to give.

The recent law was intended to have students volunteer the fee under a positive check-off system. Margie Alt, an organizing director for MASSPIRG's national equivalent, USPIRG, said lawmakers are trying to get rid of the group's lobbyists.

Alleged vengeance: "The legislature is being vindictive again," she said.

"After MASSPIRG lobbied for the Bottle Bill in 1982, legislators outlawed mandatory fees," she said. "Now that we're pushing for the recycling bill, they are seeking to punish MASSPIRG again."

The recycling bill will require product packaging to be made of recycled material. Some in industry are fighting it for its expense to Massachusetts' manufacturers. One version died in legislation last year, when MASSPIRG dropped its support due to what it saw as unacceptable alterations, Cohen said.

Peter Flynn, president of the Massachusetts Food Association, told the *Boston Globe* his group has proposed a comprehensive recycling reform package, but MASSPIRG is unwilling to make compromises.

One of many: Haverhill Representative Brian Dempsey voted for the bill changing MASSPIRG's funding, and said it was a coincidence that the law came after the group's

recycling bill lobbying.

He said he paid the group's fee while in college, but he disapproves of their collection method.

"Why is it fair for MASSPIRG to receive funding like that when groups like the United Way cannot?" Dempsey said.

The wording of the legislation seemed to allow the State Student Association of Massachusetts (SSAM) to continue collecting funds under a negative check-off system, said Joe Langis, executive director of SSAM.

Langis said SSAM actively opposed the action, which he sees as an assault on students' rights by a bitter legislature.

Resentment claimed: "I have heard a great deal of negatives about MASSPIRG at the state house," he said. "They seem to be ganging up on them."

On the attorney general's decision voiding the bill, Cohen said he is "cautiously optimistic."

The group will be lobbying against an anticipated move by the legislature to pass a bill with correct wording.

Still wary: Cohen said MASSPIRG will be targeting local legislators through petitions and letters in an effort to sway support from any new measures affecting its funding.

He hopes to enlist the aid of NECC's faculty, some of whom helped in the past.

"President Dimitry has been one of the most supportive people in the state," Cohen said.

Langis said he seldom finds cause to compliment a president, but Dimitry has been pulling for MASSPIRG throughout their crisis, and NECC is lucky to have him.

Local history: NECC's chapter came in 1990 through a student vote. Some of its recent projects include a campus voting drive. Mike Roberts, NECC student and Green Voter Campaign coordinator, said they registered 79 students in the cafeteria for the Massachusetts presidential primaries.

Katherine Puffer is leading the chapter's fight against hunger and homelessness.

She organized the recent food and clothing drive, which she said gathered much clothing and blankets for the homeless. The group will be participating in a work-a-thon, where students are sponsored for hours of community service performed cleaning up a park or shelter, she said.

Helping out: Half of the money raised will go to local shelters, and half to the National Organization against Hunger and Homelessness, Puffer said.

Alt said MASSPIRG's accomplishments on the state level include passing the bottle bill, toxic waste clean up, toxic use reduction, new car lemon law and used car lemon law.

Public education reform may be good for college

Better prepared high-school grads would help NECC

By BRIAN COLEMAN
Observer Staff Reporter

Financial increases for the Massachusetts public education system could mean better prepared high-school graduates arriving at NECC.

Later this year, the legislature may pass a bill that would benefit the public education system. Such a boost could mean upgraded materials to better educate students in areas such as English and math, said John Dimitry, NECC president.

Dimitry said as many as 35 percent of NECC students come to the school without the necessary skills needed at four-year schools.

Better education: "I believe that this bill can help public schools better educate students in the core subjects, such as reading, writing and arithmetic," he said.

Al Argenziano, Lawrence assistant school superintendent, explained that the proposal is a state solution of a national issue.

"This bill is good for everyone involved," he said. "Education is down on a national

scale. President Bush has lofty goals to greatly improve on education by the year 2000. Locally, we may be able to make such goals a reality."

Under this proposal, schools would have greater responsibility in accreditation, and teacher tenure could be eliminated.

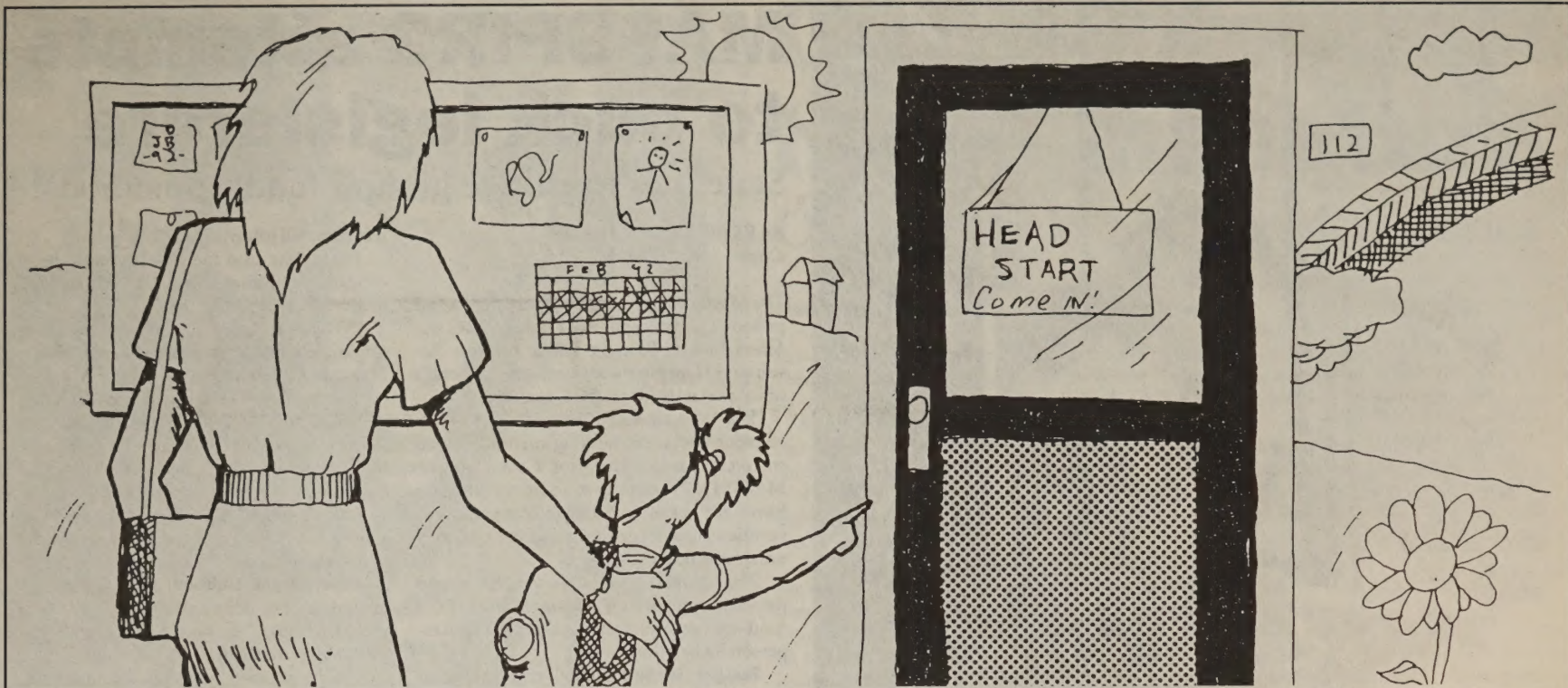
Much of current school budgets are devoted to staff salaries.

Inner-city woes: In a recent article in the *Eagle Tribune*, Lawrence school superintendent James Scully said, "Urban cities can't offer what our suburban neighbors offer because education has been based on property taxes."

Argenziano agreed, noting that inner-city areas often lack an adequate tax base.

The education bill could help public education turn out quality students, Argenziano said.

"Northern Essex could benefit by having skilled students who apply the academic skills they acquired in high school," he said. "Healthier public education means that everyone in the system benefits."



Giving a 'head start'

Children can thrive if federal funds come through

BY JULIA FAIRCLOUGH
Observer Features Editor

Head Start has new hope.

In a recent *Boston Globe* article, President Bush announced his administration will include a \$600 million increase in next year's budget for the federal early education program.

Maureen Mulcahy, project director of the Greater Lawrence Community Council's Head Start program, said, "This is the biggest increase they have ever given us, if it actually happens. But it still will not serve as many children as we need to serve."

Lawrence has over 300 children on its waiting list, and there are many needy families, Mulcahy said. If the money comes through, Head Start may be able to service 50 to 60 kids out of the 300, she said.

Lowell and Cambridge, among others, also have lengthy waiting lists, Mulcahy said.

Worthy cause: Gail Feigenbaum, assistant professor, early childhood education, said the money will definitely be well-spent, as Head Start lacks playground equipment, for example.

"It is a sad state of education to walk out on a playground that has nothing," she said.

This is crucial because play is an important part of the Head Start curriculum to increase motor skills and to just get outside, she said.

Mulcahy said Congress has kept a commitment to expand Head Start somewhat, but the funding was only a part of the original promise to have full enrollment in classrooms.

If more money comes through, Head Start can add new sites, although it depends

on how much money they receive, Mulcahy said.

Wishful thinking: "It is ideal to have neighborhood centers near every child's home, but space is not always available," she said. Head Start relies on the community to give them space.

"We are grateful for it, but it has always been space designed for different age groups," Mulcahy said.

For example, the Head Start classrooms in Lawrence are located in the high school.

"We've been at Lawrence High for three years," Mulcahy said. "Hopefully this will not change, but you never know."

Mulcahy said Head Start is in a tenant-at-will lease, and if school needs change due to enrollment, it will have to relocate elsewhere.

In addition, space is limited in schools because they are overcrowded already, she said, adding that it would benefit Head Start to have its own building.

Additional reform: Other future possible improvements, according to Mulcahy, include expanding the day to 4 1/2 hours, and extending the school year from eight to nine months.

"This would benefit the children," she said. "The hours should match public schools."

Also, Mulcahy hopes to acquire "wrap-around services" for parents in training programs, since finding half-day slots to accommodate Head Start hours is difficult. Another agency offers a training program in English as a Second Language (ESL) from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., much longer than the Head Start day.

Rather than pulling the parent's child out of the program, Mulcahy said Head Start is looking for funding so the mother can drop off her child before school starts.

Therefore, this before-school and after-school program "wraps around" the Head Start day, Mulcahy said.

Another goal includes expanding a program in Andover, she said.

"For so many years, the funding level was frozen and we could not expand," she said.

Changes for the better: If the federal vision of Head Start makes it so every child has a place to come to, Mulcahy sees more varied services for the future, including tailoring services to meet the children's various needs. This includes "wrap-around" services, ESL classes on the sight, plus having their own facility.

"However, I do not see this in the near future," Mulcahy said, adding the first priority was to get more children into Head Start.

According to Mulcahy, Congress has much to look at, including opening new facilities, staff training and improvement of salaries.

"Enough money has to be set aside to resolve these issues," she said.

As far as Bush's assertion of being the "education president," Mulcahy said, many people would dispute his claim.

Broken vow: "Across the board, he has not followed through on his promise to be the education president," she said.

Helen Murgida, instructor, early childhood education, said it is difficult to see how he has put his contention into action.

"The translation of seeing help I have not seen yet," Murgida said.

Mulcahy said although Bush's concern for

education is sincere, he failed to put financial commitment into place.

"I personally do not see any evidence, but this would be a big step in the right direction," Feigenbaum said.

Political passion: In several recent *Boston Globe* articles, many of the presidential candidates have been quoted as being in favor of increased funding for Head Start.

"Does it come from personal knowledge or from being such a hot topic?" Mulcahy said.

Mulcahy said she is not sure if it is the candidates' commitment or priority.

Head Start is popular now, Mulcahy said, so they are all using it in campaign promises.

Budget increase

"This is the biggest increase they have ever given us, if it actually happens," Maureen Mulcahy said. "But it still will not serve as many children as we need to serve." Lawrence has over 300 children on its waiting list, and there are many families in need.

Child care program began in Johnson years

BY JULIA FAIRCLOUGH
Observer Features Editor

Head Start has come a long way.

Twenty-six years ago, Head Start began during the Johnson administration to fight the war against poverty, according to Maureen Mulcahy, project director of the Greater Lawrence Community Council Head Start program.

Head Start's original intent was a summer camp for 1,000 kids, for an eight-week program in 1965, Mulcahy said. The program "ballooned immediately" and became a school-year program in 1967, with four major components: education, health, parental involvement and social services.

Head Start's educational program is designed to meet each child's individual needs, offering a variety of learning experiences to foster intellectual, social and emotional growth, she said.

Positive reinforcement: Gail Feigenbaum, assistant professor, early childhood education, said, "Head Start tries to offer children the stimulation they might not get at home."

The intensive parental involvement makes Head Start unique from most preschool programs, Mulcahy said.

"Parental involvement is important for an effective environment," Feigenbaum said. "It should be a partnership."

Parents volunteer in classrooms by watching teachers, which can also serve as models for parents, Feigenbaum said. This

helps parents make decisions, she said.

"A lot of teachers were past parents who volunteered in the classrooms," she said. "And this is another accomplishment."

Because Head Start works so closely with families, the experience is tailored to each household, Mulcahy said. Each family is treated as an individual unit.

"Since we focus so much on that area, I like to think we impact families' ability to gain control," she said.

Although Head Start is not a crutch, it helps families to build skills and strength. The long-range impact of Head Start is to change the child's situation so he or she can become a socially competent human being, Mulcahy said.

The first criteria for Head Start is low-

income eligibility, which is strict because it must meet the federal poverty level, she said. Children are not always from dysfunctional families, Mulcahy said, but many parents are teen-mothers, causing problems for the child.

Educational tool: Feigenbaum said students studying early childhood education can work at the site, and NECC uses Methuen classrooms.

This provides a good experience for students because they can see how to plan a curriculum and work with disadvantaged kids, Feigenbaum said.

Helen Murgida, instructor, early childhood education, said, "Head Start is very effective and has provided a safe and caring environment to give children a head start."

Working with Mickey

Disney provides work, enjoyment for some students

By RAYMOND WILLIAMS
Observer Staff Reporter

For students suffering from bug-eyed syndrome, due to the rigors of a demanding schedule, there may be a cure at hand.

Since 1987, NECC students have had the opportunity to take a semester off from classes to roll up their sleeves and work for Disney.

The Walt Disney college program recruits students from colleges and universities across the country. These students earn money and work experience.

The students work at jobs ranging from fast-food retail to tour guides. Students are expected to work 30 hours a week and attend business seminars on marketing, entertainment, finance, park operations and employee relations.

Great opportunity: "It's not a vacation," said Jean Poth, chairperson, division of business. "The work is hard, but it's excellent resume experience."

The program is not limited to business students. All students can apply, regardless of their major. Disney World hires students through interviews held on campus.

Students accepted into the program are housed in apartments outside Disney World. Disney deducts the rent from their pay, and students are responsible for their own transportation.

When not working, students are allowed to spend their free time any way they'd like and have unlimited access to the park itself.

Plenty of fun: Former student, Stephanie Constantine, was one of the first NECC students to participate in the program.

"I had the best time when I was there," she said. "My job wasn't that great because it was fast-food retail, but everything else was."

Not all jobs are tedious. Nancy Butterworth, an NECC student who recently returned from Disney, worked as a guide at the Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer Studios tour.

"I had the best job," she said. "Not all students were as lucky as I was."

She worked during the *Beauty and the Beast* and *Father of the Bride* studio premieres. Her tour guide position resulted in meeting several celebrities during her stay.

Highly recommended: Students have been able to see first-hand

Work experience

"It's not a vacation," said Jean Poth, chairperson, division of business. "The work is hard, but it's excellent resume experience."

what it's like to work for Disney.

"Not one of the students to go through the program has had a negative experience," Poth said.

She said the program was informative and enjoyable.

"I liked the business seminars the most," Constantine said. "I would go back if I could, and I would definitely recommend the program to anyone interested in going."

Butterworth echoed Constantine's sentiments.

Fond memories: "I'd love to go back," she said. "It was excellent. I learned a lot, and grew a lot as a person."

Any student interested in applying can contact Poth at B-306, ext. 3624.



Bright lights, big mouse

File photo
THE WALT DISNEY college program gives students an opportunity to work for the most famous rodent in the world.

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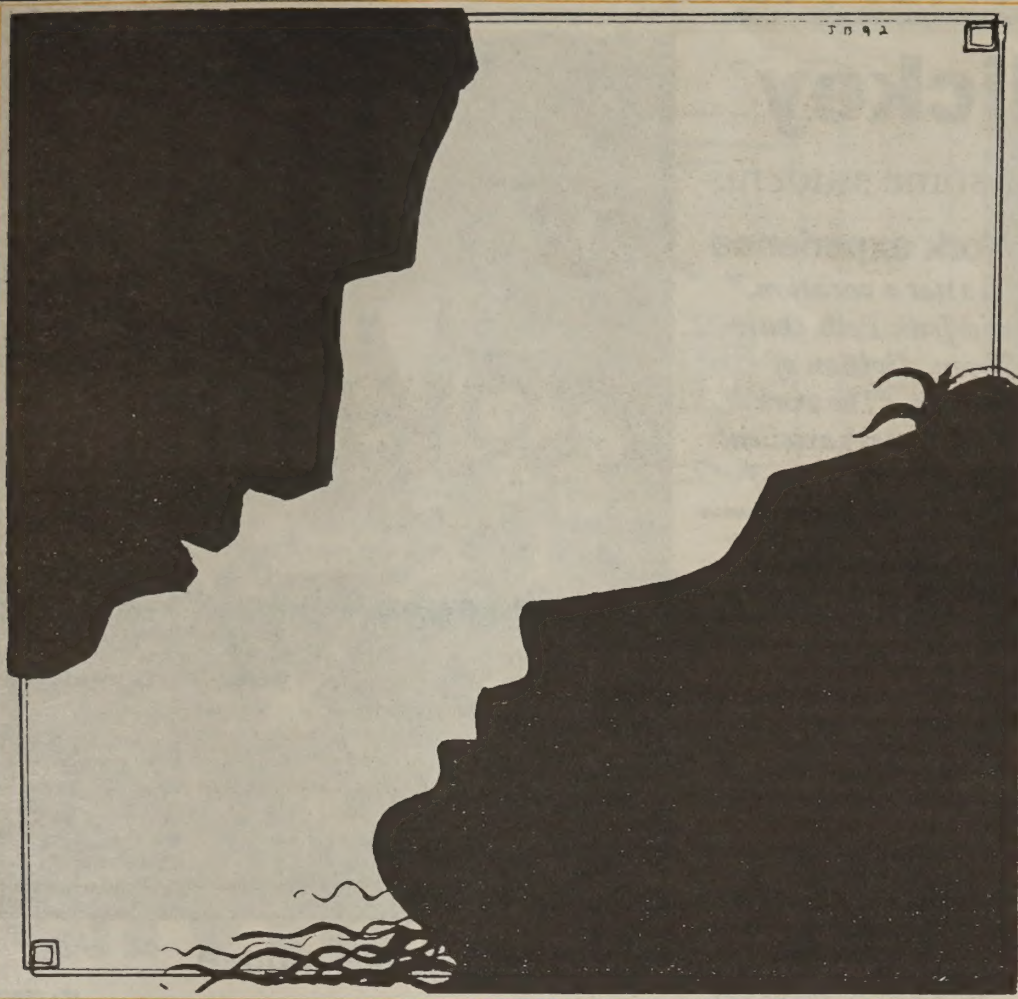


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Female condoms

Alternative method to safer sex; FDA approval for marketing still pending

By DEBBIE DOWNING
Observer Staff Reporter

Men have used condoms for hundreds of years. Pending U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval, American women may have their own condom this year.

Approval of vaginal pouches would allow women, for the first time, to protect themselves from both unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

While oral contraceptives, diaphragms, cervical caps and contraceptive sponges are all under a woman's control, they leave the women's genital tract exposed to infectious organisms. Until now, only male condoms were considered good protection from STDs.

New products: The female condom, called Reality in the United States, and Femdon in Europe, consists of a soft, polyurethane pouch with a flexible polyurethane ring at both ends. One of the rings is inserted like a diaphragm and anchors the device inside the woman. The other ring remains outside of the vagina, covering the external genitals.

Unanimously recommended for marketing by an FDA advisory panel, female condoms will be the first new non-prescription contraceptive in nearly a decade. The condoms would sell for \$2.25 each, and are sold in Switzerland. France and England plan to market the condom later this year.

Newsweek's February issue reports that a variety of female condoms are being developed. *Women's Choice* by M.D. Personal Products has an umbrella-like cap and is inserted with a plastic applicator. *Lea's Shield*, *Oves Cervical Cap* and *Fem Cap* are silicone rubber barrier contraceptives. The unique *Unisex Condom Garment* may provide the ultimate in disease protection. Depending on which sex wears the garment, the sheath becomes either a vaginal pouch or a penis cover.

Safety: Developers of the new barrier devices claim they provide at least as much pregnancy protection as the diaphragm or male condom, and since they pose few safety problems, FDA approval could come within the next two to three years.

NECC Student Health Services distributes free male condoms from a dollhouse called their "condominium." Director Patricia Kepschull is uncertain whether Health Services will be handing out the new female condom.

"Truthfully, I don't know a thing about it," she said. "Whether or not we carry it will depend on if it's approved and how much it costs."

Practical applications: Most female students queried at NECC were enthusiastic about the concept of a female condom, but doubted they would use one.

"I think it's a great idea," said liberal arts student Nancy Lucia. "It's just the designs I've seen appear cumbersome and impractical."

"Personally, I cannot picture myself using one," said Cindy Viens. "But with AIDS and everything, it's definitely a worthwhile advancement."

According to a *Boston Globe* article, a study among prostitutes in Cameroon found 36 of 38 courtesans claimed they liked the female condom. A group of American intravenous drug users also felt it provided greater protection from venereal diseases.

Offering hope: Fran DeLotto is nurse manager of Haverhill's Health Works, a family planning and women's resource clinic. DeLotto is certain Health Works will be offering the new condom and feels they should be effective against STDs.

"STDs can pose a greater risk to women because a woman's genital tissues are delicate and prone to microscopic tears through which infectious bacteria and viruses, transmitted in semen, can enter her body," DeLotto said.



Dimensions

6 1/2" long
3" wide
2" diameter
inner ring
2 3/4" diameter
outer ring

Female condom

U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval is pending for a female condom. The vaginal pouch is designed to guard against sexually transmitted diseases and to prevent conception.

Selected facts

Researchers conducting clinical studies have found that:
■ The chance of women being exposed to semen was 3%, compared to 11.6% with male condoms.
■ Tear rates were less than 1%, compared to 1-14% in studies of male condoms.
■ There have been no significant adverse reactions reported in

30,000 uses by 1,700 couples.
■ No damage to the vaginal canal or change in natural bacteria was found.
■ HIV (AIDS) virus and hepatitis B do not penetrate it.
■ Some dislike it, find the outer ring that hangs outside the body to be cumbersome.

SOURCE: Chicago Tribune, Wisconsin Pharmaceutical Co.

Survivor

Date rape cases

By MICHELLE GAGNON
Observer Staff Reporter

For many college students, weekends are filled with parties, friendly gatherings and dates. Most students never imagine that one of these social activities could become a nightmare for them.

Date rape, also known as acquaintance rape, is defined as forced sexual intercourse between people who know each other. Sixty-five percent of all rapes are committed by an acquaintance and frequently this crime is committed on college campuses. This crime is most common between the ages of 15 and 24.

Violence: "In no way is rape an act of sex. Rapists are motivated and driven by feelings of power, control, intimidation, violence, domination and anger. Rape is a premeditated crime, meaning the victim could be anyone, depending on the woman's vulnerability," said Laura McKellar, a rape counselor for the Volunteers Against Rape, a group that works in conjunction with the Women's Resource Center of Lawrence and Haverhill.

Rapists are categorized into three types. The power rapist uses rape to gain control in his own life, due to a weak sense of self. The angry rapist rapes to temporarily relieve frustration, and the sadistic rapist rapes women in

order to discharge anger," McKellar said.

"Many rape cases are quite specific," McKellar said. "Some women are usually left with much emotion due to the fact that they knew the rapist. Victims of date rape often experience emotions, such as guilt, anger, self-esteem, disbelief, shame."

Inappropriate blame: "Many women realize that they have been victimized. Sometime later, McKellar said, they knew the assailant, they knew they deserved it."

Contrary to what some people think, not asked to be raped. According to the Women's Resource Center, if it is rape, and rape is a crime, the victim should know each other and the other before. Whatever the reason, the victim is not to blame.

"Very few victims come forward with their word against the man," McKellar said. "All he has to do is establish a way with the crime," McKellar said. "10 are reported, with three going to court. One is convicted with an 85

Health services head

to inform public about

Building task force to make community

By KAREN HOPKINS
Observer Staff Reporter

Understanding, education, and prevention are words Pat Kepschull emphasizes when she speaks on the subject of HIV or AIDS.

"HIV is a human issue for human beings," Kepschull said as she tried to impress upon her listeners the universality of the disease.

"The risk of becoming HIV positive is not limited to the gay community and IV drug users," she said. "People who engage in risky behavior put themselves at risk of contracting the virus."

The director of student health services is the campus AIDS educator and the president of the Merrimack Valley AIDS Task Force. Her primary concern in student health services is not HIV or AIDS, but since it is an issue facing students, she is able to combine her efforts on the task force with her work at NECC.

The task force was originally formed in 1986 by a former NECC student who was HIV positive. As the student's illness progressed, he was unable to hold meetings and the group became inactive.

In the meantime, service grants for HIV education, family health services, and needs assessment were going to Lowell and Lawrence. Haverhill was missing out.

Kepschull re-activated the group in 1991. **Group needed:** "No other group had come along to take our place, and the need for an AIDS task force had not gone away," she said.

"We made a real push to get going again with the goal of getting AIDS out of the closet. We wanted to remove the social stigma and educate people about the realities of the disease," she said.

The task force will seek grant money and donations to help achieve its objectives which include education, referral and outreach. A hot-line for AIDS information is one service the group hopes to provide for the community.

"We want to be known to the community, so that if someone needs information on AIDS they will call us," she said.

In the area of education, Kepschull is already fulfilling the group's goal. She speaks frequently about HIV and AIDS both on-and off-campus. She sees her busy lecture schedule as a positive sign.

"High schools and even middle schools are inviting

me talk about AIDS," she said. "It happened five or ten years ago."

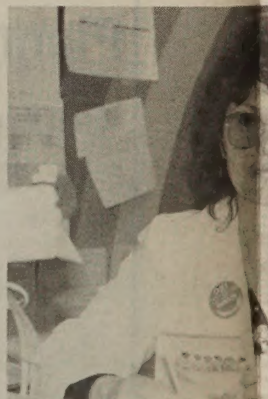
Sex education is being discussed as a cause of the AIDS epidemic.

True prevention: "AIDS is a total picture," she said. "AIDS is not just about throwing condoms around sex," Kepschull said. "I tell students the best protection against the disease is to inform them about condoms and to abstain."

Because of the implementation of the public schools, Kepschull feels the public schools will enter the "experimental" phase of the knowledge they need to have.

The mentality of a lot of people is to happen to them, and Kepschull is candid about having the virus. Her perception of the disease.

"People can relate to Magi's story. When admission opens people's eyes, the disease can be spread through



Pat Kepschull

"AIDS education is important. We are using condoms around the clock. OK, go have sex."

ing the '90s

ses increase on college campuses

"McKellar said. quite similar, although the ellarsaid. According to Bobbie elor, victims of date rape are otional trauma to go through, ew and trusted their assailant. en experience many fears and anger, distrust of men, loss of ame, and self-blame. "Many women do not even en victims of date rape until said. "They assume that since ey must have done something

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McKellar said.

"Although there is much emotional damage left, unfortunately, there probably won't be any scars or bruises to be used as proof," Ahouse said.

"Listening and getting them to talk is the best form of help that family, friends and counselors can offer victims," McKellar said. "Victims must learn to feel safe again, that they do have control over their own lives, that they are in no way responsible for what happened. A counselor's job is to show them there is life after rape and, after the healing process, they will be O.K. again.

"Knowing others who have been through the same type of ordeal can be a great comfort; the sooner they talk, the quicker the healing process," she said.

Frequency: Date rape does not only occur on college campuses. It can happen in high schools, on the job, and even in the elementary schools.

Recently, a new law has been established, forcing colleges to include crime rates in their freshmen orientations.

"No longer can these crimes be kept under wraps. It is the student's right to know; just knowing the truth gives you an advantage. We still have a long way to go, but at least we are headed in the right direction," McKellar said.

Asked what can be done to help prevent this crime

Rape against women, an act of power

"In no way is rape an act of sex. Rapists are motivated and driven by feelings of power, control, intimidation, violence, domination and anger. Rape is a premeditated crime, meaning the victim could be anyone, depending on the woman's vulnerability," said Laura McKellar, a rape counselor for the Volunteers Against Rape.

from occurring in the future and what safety precautions can be taken, McKellar simply stated, "Communication and education."

Precautions: "Education has to start very young so boys can learn that 'no means no,' and so girls can be taught to clearly communicate their expectations and wishes, verbally and non-verbally," she said.

"Women need to be aware of their environment, go out in groups and look out for each other when attending social activities and make clear their own personal feelings about certain situations and their expectations,"

Ahouse said.

"The message I would like to send out to victims who may be afraid to come forward is that they should not be ashamed. This is in no way their fault, they are not alone, there are people who understand, and, most of all, they did nothing to ask for this," she said.

Volunteers Against Rape is a group of eight trained rape counselors who staff a 24-hour hotline and offer crisis intervention to victims of rape. Call 685-4041 in Lawrence, or 373-4041 in Haverhill for help or more information.

works

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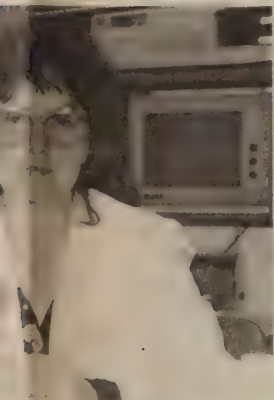
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Educating students

R. Williams photos

NECC STUDENTS gather around an AIDS Awareness Week exhibit sponsored by WBCN, left. Rock lobster, above.

AIDS impacts people from all groups in society

By COLLEEN MCGONAGLE
Observer Staff Reporter

AIDS attacks anyone regardless of race, sex, age or education. It threatens our future. To control this epidemic, learn the facts, dispose of myths and help others to learn. This may be our best defense, says *Straight Talk*, a magazine about AIDS.

"It's very important to learn the facts and, if needed, change your behavior. Abstaining from sex is safest, but if not, it's a matter of doing certain things to reduce the risk," said Cathy Cronin, AIDS director at the Red Cross in Haverhill.

Common ways of contracting the virus are through unprotected sex, sharing needles, infected pregnant women passing it to their children, or in very rare cases today, blood transfusions.

Once in the blood stream, it is present in bodily fluids such as semen, vaginal fluids, and blood exchanged during unprotected sex.

Incubation period: The disease can lay dormant for as many as seven to 10 years before symptoms become visible. It can be spread without the person knowing he/she is infected.

Human Immune deficiency Virus (HIV) is the virus that causes AIDS. The virus attacks certain white blood

cells essential to the body's immune system. According to the Red Cross' *HIV/AIDS Prevention for the Family* booklet, it slowly destroys the body's ability to fight infections.

With this disease plaguing society, the impact it has on the population is greater. Generations to follow are aware and ready to fight this deadly virus.

Nelida, an eighth-grader, said, "I'm not worried because I'm young, but in the future I think the risk of contracting it will be higher and you never know who to trust."

Making a change: Daphney, a 22-year-old NECC student, said, "I've changed my behavior to be safer. I don't put myself in risky situations."



C. McGonagle photo.
LEARNING AT an early age—N. Figueroa and M. Jordan.

As for adults, examining our actions should be a prime concern. For children, it should be lessons to be learned.

Cronin said there is no reason to fear HIV testing, donating blood, or transfusions.

"Transfusions are as safe as is technically and medically possible. Every unit is tested twice," she said.

AIDS testing sites have been set up throughout the state. Tests are available by a personal physician, clinic, or the Red Cross. The Red Cross offers anonymous testing where you are a number not a name.

Getting tested: It's important to have the test if you feel you have been exposed to HIV. Some can extend the life of an infected person by slowing down the progress of the disease.

Pat Kepshull, R.N., NECC health coordinator, and president of the Merrimack Valley AIDS Task Force, said, "AIDS will be a household word; there will be no one who isn't affected by this disease."

Merrimack Valley Aids Task Force meetings are held at NECC in F-139 every fourth Wednesday.

To learn more, call The Red Cross Clinical Testing Service, 1-800-223-7849; the National AIDS Hotline, 1-800-342-2437; the Merrimack Valley AIDS Task Force, 508-374-3879; or the Merrimack Valley HIV Project in Lawrence 508-975-3142.

Breaking boundaries

Lawrence student goes beyond assignment to win award

By JENNIFER FORZESE
Observer Features Editor

Freedom means many things to different people.

Carlos Munoz, accounting major, turned a painful incident into an award-winning paper in the English department's writing awards last semester.

View on freedom: The phrase "Free, free, free" was written on the board of Munoz's English composition I class, where students were given the assignment of writing what the phrase meant to them.

"From this assignment, I converted it into a paper," Munoz said.

Marjory Martin, professor, department of English, said Munoz's paper broke the boundary of the assignment.

"It was evident to me that it deserved to be more of a paper than just a response to an assignment," she said.

Munoz said he chose to write about an incident that happened to him when he was a teenager.

"I thought of something personal to me," he said. "At first, I thought it was a little too personal."

Mistaken identity: In Munoz's essay, he was mistaken for another man, named Fabio, and arrested. Without being given a chance to explain who he was, Munoz was taken to the police station. While in the car, he tried to explain he was not Fabio.

At the station, he learned Fabio was wanted for armed robbery, conspiracy to murder, assault on a police officer, violation of parole and being a fugitive from justice. Munoz was booked, fingerprinted and locked in a cell.

This was not the first time Munoz had been stopped and questioned by the police. Several times on the way home from a part-time job, he was taken into custody by the police.

He left the job because of the harassment he received when taking a short cut through an upper-class community.

He made his phone call to his mother who arrived at the station with her son's diploma, driver's license, birth certificate, social security card and his fishing license.

Everyday occurrence: "It never occurred to me to do anything about it," Munoz said. "To me, it is something normal to have this trouble."

Munoz feels what happened to him can happen to anyone.

"You don't have to be a criminal to get arrested," he said. "There could be circumstances the police feel are substantial enough to stop you, ask you where you are going, and where you have been."

Living With the Fourteenth Amendment won Munoz the Elizabeth Arnold award, which is given for the best essay written in an English composition I class in any semester.

Unexpected honor: "I had no idea about the award," he said. "I wasn't expecting an



File photo

RECEIVING THE Elizabeth Arnold award is Carlos Munoz for his essay, *Living With the 14th Amendment*.

award, maybe a certificate. I would have been satisfied with just hearing my name called saying I had participated in the contest. I was happy and excited to win."

Munoz's paper was submitted by Martin.

"Only a few students were selected to enter the contest," she said. "It was hard for me to keep this from him."

After seven years, Munoz returned to school.

"I wanted to reshape my future," he said. "I want something I can depend on, a new outlook on life."

Martin called Munoz an ideal example of a student who makes teaching at a community college worthwhile.

Viviendo Bajo la Cuarta Enmienda

Por CARLOS MUNOZ
Colaborador Invitado del "Observer"
(Traducción: Poe Mario O'Noris)

Una tarde de verano estaba yo sentado frente a mi casa sobre la capota de mi carro. Tenía en el radio animados ritmos hispanos, mientras me arrecostaba del parabrisas. A través de mis espejuelos oscuros miraba los autos pasar y a los niños corretear en la calle frente a una pompa hidráulica. Me hallaba allí hacía una hora, simplemente gozando la música y los rayos del sol que bronceaban mi pecho desnudo.

Resultaba ser un día veraniego de verdad. La luz solar y el calor penetraban cada fibra de mi cuerpo, dejándome ardiente y satisfecho. Amo el verano y, en forma lenta pero segura, me dejo vencer por un sueñecito tierno, holgado, letárgico.

Un carro antiguo, al que luego yo describiera como a un Grand Prix del 1975, frenó frente a mí en forma acelerada. Nisiquiera me molesté en levantar la cabeza para ver quién era el conductor. Pero de inmediato, un hombre bien vestido, con apariencia de negociante, estaba a mi lado.

Me dijo: "Fabio?" Enderecé el cuerpo y me quité los espejuelos. Noté en seguida que el hombre lucía una chapa áurea de la policía, con la inscripción: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Constable (Oficial de Corte de la Mancomunidad de Massachusetts).

Respondí: "Mi nombre no es Fabio, sino Carlos."

El hombre me miró a los ojos y con su mano izquierda extrajo del saco unos pliegues. Los abrió y me dijo: "Tengo autorización para arrestarte."

Esas palabras resonaron en mí, por lo cual repuse: "¿Qué es lo que tiene usted? Eso es imposible". Me acordé en seguida de las veces que la policía me había detenido tarde en la noche mientras me dirigía a casa desde un restaurant donde trabajaba unas horas como lava-platos. Cuando llegaba la medianoche, mis pies empezaban a flaquear de agotamiento, no obstante, llegaba a mi casa al cortar distancia caminando a través de un sector privilegiado y lleno de luz, lo que originaba que ocasionalmente la policía me detuviera e interrogara. Para verificación, debía llamar por teléfono a mi supervisor, quien repetidas veces hacía las gestiones de lugar para que se me dejara libre. Nunca me detuvieron por más de unas horas, mas para mí aquello era injusto. Yo había sido hostigado por los llamados: 'Men in blue' (Hombres de azul).

El individuo me mostró la foto de un hombre parecido a mí, excepto por los bigotes. Comencé por alcanzar mi bolsillo trasero para identificarme, pero no tenía conmigo la cartera.

"Espere un minuto," le dije. "Entraré a mi casa a buscar mi cartera."

"No," contestó secamente. "Usted viene conmigo al destacamento policial, ahora voltéese y cálese". Me esposó, y por una mano me llevó al asiento frontal de pasajero; abrió la puerta del auto y sostuvo mi cabeza mientras yo abordaba, como evitando que me golpease la frente.

El oficial se lanzó imponentemente al asiento de conducir, y de inmediato abandonó el lugar de la requisa, conmigo esposado e indefenso. Todo sucedió tan rápido que sólo unas personas—desafortunadamente desconocidas para mí—presenciaron la escena de la detención. Repetí al oficial: "No soy Fabio. Mi nombre es Carlos. Mire, vivo en el tercer piso.

Podemos ir allí para que alguien me identifique. Vamos a buscar mi cartera. Mire, señor, usted ha confundido mi persona."

El policía gruñó: "Cállate, Fabio. Sé muy bien quién eres. Te he buscado desde hace largo tiempo. Habrás engordado un poco, mas para mí eres el mismo. Espera a que los muchachos del centro de la ciudad sepan a quién traigo conmigo. No lo van a creer."

Suplicaba yo durante toda la marcha, pero del oficial sólo surgían muecas y risas cínicas. Manejé el carro hasta el final de mi calle y después de obedecer a una señal de 'Pare,' viró la cara hacia mí e impuso: "Te voy a ordenar por última vez que te calles. Puedes explicar tu asunto en el cuartel." Estaba yo enfurecido, ardiendo de odio, y en el momento barbuzeaba en español, pero la orden del policía fue tan arbitraria, que dejé de hablar, y tranquilo en aquel asiento cavilé durante todo el viaje.

De nuevo memoricé aquellas noches cuando había sido detenido e interrogado y las comparé con este momento, en el cual me conducían al destacamento policial por una razón diferente a aquella en que me arrestaron por cruzar un sector de la clase privilegiada en horas nocturnas. Repetidamente tuve las muñecas de mis manos bien atadas y dolorosamente reprimidas mientras me llevaron a la estación hasta ser tirado en una celda grisácea, asquerosa y de luz opaca y aturdida, en medio de otros reclusos. Nadie hablaba inglés allí, excepto yo, ni había un policía de los presentes que hablase español. Sentía seguridad porque poseía identificaciones y podía hablar por mí mismo, pero los oficiales simulaban no tener ningún interés en el lugar que yo trabajaba, hacia dónde me dirigía, o quién era yo. Para ellos era uno más. Era otro malo, sin atributos, un pobre inmigrante hispano, fácil de sacarse ventaja. La situación era vergonzosa, y a pesar de que necesitaba mi trabajito, tuve que renunciar a éste a causa de la confusión.

Finalmente llegamos a la estación. El policía manejó hacia la parte atrás donde un portón del sótano se abrió, permitiendo el acceso. Era una entrada subterránea, especial para los presos que llegaban. Pensé sobre aquella conveniencia e innovación. ¡Mi madre, como las cosas han cambiado!

Fui sacado del auto e inscrito en una libreta para archivos, imprimieron mis huellas digitales. Yo insistía en que no era Fabio y advertía el error pero los oficiales reían. No importaba mi esfuerzo, no podían convencerse a causa de mi identidad. Después del proceso de inscripción fui escoltado hasta un conjunto de celdas en forma de H a lo largo de las paredes del pasillo principal. El piso lucía sucio y el linóleo gastado por doquier. Las luces, en cierto aspecto, estaban deterioradas. Fui encerrado en una celda de unos 6 por 8 pies, no más grande que el baño de mi casa, y se me ordenó quitarme los tenis. "¿Por qué razón?" pregunté. El guardia dijo: "Para que no te cuelgues, Fabio. No nos gustaría encontrarte muerto." Soltó una carcajada y estrelló la puerta.

A través de las barras le pregunté por qué buscaban a Fabio, y el guardia respondió: "Por robo a mano armada, conspiración para asesinato, asalto a un oficial de la policía, violación de fianza, y por ser fugitivo de la justicia." Al retirarse pude oír sus pasos desvanecerse hasta el final del pasillo. Sentí el impacto al cerrarse el portón principal de acceso al conjunto de celdas, y caí en cuenta de que yo estaba solo.

Eché un vistazo alrededor de aquel calabozo y lo primero que vi fue el lavamanos. Estaba fabricado de acero inoxidable, no tenía tanque de agua, y estaba soldado a la pared. Operaba apretando un botón. Después observé las paredes de rosado que me rodeaban. Estaban quemadas, rayadas con inscripciones de cientos de nombres. Samuel, Enrique, Pito, Alex, Luis, Miguel, Raymond y Edwin, para mencionar algunos. (Noté que la cantidad de nombres hispanos superaba a la anglosajona). Me dejé caer sentado y titubeante en uno de dos fríos camastros de acero contiguos al inodoro, y me sentí admirado ante la creatividad de las personas que habían dejado impresos sus nombres en la pared. Dichos nombres eran testimonios silenciosos segregados, pidiendo justicia. En el techo había señales de fósforos que quemaron algunos nombres, pero un instrumento puntiagudo trazó más nombres sobre el espesor de la pintura en las paredes.

Me recosté sobre aquella plancha de acero que servía de cama, y comencé a pensar cómo iba a librarme de ésta. Bien, me dije, aquí estoy otra vez. ¿Por qué? No he hecho nada malo; nunca he faltado a la ley. Cavilaba y me llegó una pregunta sin respuesta: ¿Podría uno disfrutar de un momento tranquilo en este pueblo? ¿Cuántas personas como yo son a menudo acusadas, molestadas, llevadas al cuartel o arrestadas sin razón? ¿Cuánta gente pobre, quizás no anglosajona, estará en peores riesgos que yo? Pensé que si la policía observaba en los archivos, caería en cuenta de que no soy Fabio, y si llamaban por teléfono a mi familia podían identificarme. En ese momento, una idea salvadora me llegó. Por ley, tenía el derecho a marcar una llamada telefónica. Sin rodeos grité al policía unas veinte veces hasta que acudió a mi llamado.

Le expresé: "Oficial, no soy Fabio, y si usted me deja hacer la llamada telefónica que permite la ley, me pondré en contacto con mi familia, la cual proveerá todas las identificaciones que usted necesite para mi libertad."

El policía preguntó: "¿No te han concedido una llamada?" y prosiguió: "Espera un minuto, déjame arreglar eso." Los minutos se convirtieron en horas. Al fin, cuando le dio por acordarse, el agente vino y abrió la puerta. Me dirigió hacia una oficina trasera donde hice la llamada.

Mi madre fue quien contestó al teléfono y un sobresalto se apoderó de ella cuando le conté lo sucedido. Arribó al destacamento en unos minutos. Mostró mi diploma, licencia de manejar, acta de nacimiento, tarjeta del seguro social, y aún mi licencia de pescar. La policía no tenía otra alternativa que dejarme libre. Tomó tres horas, pero al fin yo era hombre libre.

No existe sentimiento más ennoblecedor que ese palpitar de la libertad en nuestra conciencia. Lástima que ese sentimiento sólo se experimente cuando se nos hurta esa libertad, ya sea por la justicia malograda o por la ignorancia de nuestros derechos civiles. Desde el principio supe que mis derechos ciudadanos estaban siendo violados, no obstante me sentí aturdido al caer en cuenta de que los prejuicios sociales afectan hasta a aquellos que han jurado proteger el derecho de los inocentes. No todas las personas interrogadas por la policía terminan en el calabozo, pero el color de mi piel y el acento de mi voz eran evidencias suficientes para condenarme sin proceso legal. Eso es el colmo contra un 'inocente hasta justificar su condena.'

'Living with the 14th Amendment'

English composition student writes about arrest by local police department

By CARLOS MUNOZ
Observer Guest Contributor

I was sitting on the hood of my car, in front of my house, one hot summer afternoon. I had the radio blasting Spanish rhythms, while I leaned back against the windshield. Through my dark sunglasses, I watched the cars drive by and the kids down the street frolic in front of a fire hydrant. I had been there about an hour, simply enjoying the music and the sun's rays tanning my bare chest.

It was one of those truly great summer days. The sunlight and heat penetrated every fiber of my body, leaving me warm and contented. I love the summertime and slowly, but surely, I allowed myself to drift off into a kind of languid, lazy, lethargic snooze.

An old car, I noticed later to be a 1975 Grand Prix, hastily parked in front of me. I did not even turn my head to see who the driver was. All of a sudden, a man wearing a business suit was at my side.

He said, "Fabio?"
I straightened up and took off my sunglasses. I could see he was flashing a gold policeman's badge with the words Commonwealth of Massachusetts Constable engraved on it.

I said, "My name is not Fabio. My name is Carlos."

The man looked me in the eyes, and with his left hand, brought out several folded papers from his inside jacket pocket. He opened the papers and said, "I have a warrant for your arrest."

The words resounded in my head and I replied, "You have a what? It cannot be possible." Memories came rushing back to me of the many times I had been stopped by police while walking home late at night from a part-time job washing dishes. It was the middle of the night and I'd be dead on my feet, but nevertheless, I'd make my way home, taking a shortcut through a well-lit, wealthy neighborhood, only to be detained and questioned by the police. I had to call my employer to verify my job and often my boss would go out of his way to pick me up upon my release. They never held me for more than a few hours, but to me it was an injustice. I was being harassed by the so-called, "Men in blue."

He showed me a mug shot of a man resembling my image, except for his mustache. I began to reach into my back pocket to

present him some identification, but I didn't have my wallet.

"Wait a minute," I said to him. "I'll go into the house and get my wallet."

"No," he said, tersely. "You are coming down to the station with me, now turn around and shut up." He handcuffed me, held me by the arm, brought me to the front passenger seat, opened the door and held my head, so I wouldn't bump it getting into the car.

With me handcuffed and helpless, he jumped into the driver's seat and we pulled away from the curb. All this happened so quickly that only a few people noticed—unfortunately no one I knew. I kept telling him, "I am not Fabio. My name is Carlos. Look, I live on the third floor. We can go find someone to identify me. Let's go in the house and get my wallet. Look man, you've got the wrong person."

He grunted and said, "Shut up, Fabio. I know who you are. I've been looking for you a long time. You might've gained some weight, but you still look the same to me. Wait until the boys downtown see who I've brought in. They're not going to believe it."

I kept pleading my case as we drove away, but all he did was flash his toothy grin and laugh, sadistically. He drove down to the end of my street, and at the stop sign he turned to me and stated, "I am going to tell you for the last time, shut up. You can state your case down at the station." I was infuriated, burning with anger, and mumbling in Spanish by this point, but his last comment was said with such authority that I immediately stopped mumbling and sat thinking quietly for the rest of the trip.

I recalled those nights I had been stopped and questioned by the police, only to be dumped in a cruiser and dragged downtown for no other reason than being in an upper-class community late at night. I repeatedly had my wrists tightly and painfully bound as I was taken to the station and thrown in a dingy, dirty, dimly lit, gray cell with other inmates. Except for myself, not a single person in that cell spoke English and none of the officers on duty spoke Spanish. Even though I had identification and could speak for myself, the officers made it apparent they were not interested in where I worked, where I was headed or who I was. To them, I was simply one of many. I was another no-good, no-account, poor Hispanic immigrant, who was ignorant of the laws and easy to take advantage of.

The whole situation was a shameful embarrassment and even though I needed that part-time job, I left it due to the ordeal.

Finally, we arrived at the station. He drove the car behind the police station and a basement garage door opened as he drove inside. The police station had an underground drive-through for drop-offs. How innovative and convenient, I thought to myself. My, how things have changed.

I was removed from the car and directly booked and fingerprinted. I continued arguing that I was not Fabio and that they had made a mistake, but they laughed at me. No matter how hard I tried, I could not convince them as to my actual identity.

With the booking procedure now completed, I was promptly escorted into an H-shaped cell block with cells along each side wall and a main corridor running between them. The floor was filthy and the linoleum peeled up in many places. Every light overhead was broken one way or another. I was shoved roughly into a 6 by 8 foot cell, no bigger than my bathroom, and ordered to remove my sneakers.

"Why?" I asked.
The guard said, "So you won't hang yourself, Fabio. We wouldn't want to find you dead." He laughed and slammed the sliding door shut.

Through the bars, I asked him what Fabio was wanted for, and the officer replied, "Armed robbery, conspiracy to murder, assault on a police officer, violation of parole and fugitive from justice." As he walked away, I could hear his footsteps grow fainter until he reached the end of the corridor. I heard the slamming of the cell block access door and I knew I was alone.

I looked around the cell and the first item I saw was the commode. It was made of stainless steel, had no water tank, and was welded to the wall. The flushing device was a pushbutton. Next, I turned my attention to the pink walls surrounding me. They were burned and scratched with hundreds of names: Samuel, Enrique, Pito, Alex, Luis, Miguel, Raymond and Edwin, just to name a few. (The one thing I noticed was that Hispanic names were written more than American names.) Hesitantly, I sat on one of the two cold steel bunk beds, which were on each side of the toilet, and admired the creativeness of the people who had scribed their names as sort of a silent testimony to their plight.

Matches were used to burn names on the ceiling while something sharp had carved still more names in the thick coats of paint on the walls.

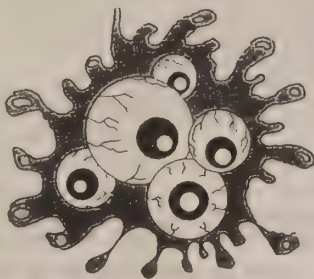
I lay down on the plank of steel that served as a bed and started thinking on how I was going to get out of this one. Well, I thought, here I am again. I hadn't done anything wrong, but I hadn't done anything wrong before either. I kept thinking to myself, can't a guy catch an even break in this town? How many people like me get wrongly accused, harassed, picked up or falsely arrested? How many people, perhaps non-English speaking people and poor, are worse off than I? I thought maybe when they looked at Fabio's record they would see I am not him. I thought perhaps I could contact my family to identify me. At that moment, a life-saving idea came to me. By law, I am allowed one phone call. I didn't hesitate to scream for the officer about 20 times until he finally came running toward me.

I told him, "Officer, I am not Fabio and if you allow me my one call permitted by law, I will call my family and they will bring all the identification you need to release me."

He responded, "You haven't been given a call? Wait a minute and let me set it up." Minutes turned into hours. Eventually, in his own sweet time, he returned to open the door. He directed me back to an office where I placed a call home.

My mother answered the phone and was shocked when I told her what happened. She was at the station in a matter of minutes. She produced my diploma, driver's license, birth certificate, social security card and even my fishing license. The police had no choice but to release me. It took three hours, but I was a free man.

There is no greater feeling than to be conscious of how important freedom is. Sadly enough, it can only be experienced once it has been taken away, either by a gross miscarriage of justice, or by one's own ignorance of legal rights. From the very beginning, I knew my civil rights were violated, however, I was outraged to find that the prejudices of society extend to the very people who are sworn to protect the rights of the innocent. Not every person questioned by the police ends up in a cell, but the color of my skin and the accent in my voice were evidence enough to convict me without a trial. So much for "innocent until proven guilty."



Keep an eye on.....

JOSHUA BERNARD

In his second semester at NECC Bernard is the art director at the *Observer*. He is also a member of the art club and is working on the student senate mural, now on exhibit outside C-343, on the Art Club board. You have to see it to believe it.....

Behavioral Science Club

- | | | | |
|---------|--|---|---|
| Feb. 24 | Coping with Depression |  | Shirley Oremland, Pres. Depression Workshop |
| Mar. 2 | The Psychology of Color |  | Phillis Bowen Color Analyst |
| Mar. 9 | Clinical Hypnotherapy |  | Harold Edelstein, Ph.D. |
| Mar. 23 | Suicidal Awareness & The Samaritan's Program |  | Peg Searley |
| Mar. 30 | Understanding Aids |  | Pat Kepschull, Director of Health Services |
| Apr. 6 | Issues in Mental Health | | Jim Cropper Attorney & Therapist |

All speaking engagements will be held in C-305, 11 a.m. to noon.

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Urban art

Local artist decorates Haverhill's downtown

By ANDREW LADEROUTE
Observer Staff Reporter

While many have visions of wealth and power, artist and faculty member Jack Carlton has a much humbler dream.

"I want to rule Merrimack Street," said Carlton, who has 30 works adorning store windows in Haverhill's downtown district.

His works, which were part of a one-man exhibit titled, *Chronicle of the Human Condition*, and were co-sponsored by the Haverhill Downtown Partnership, premiered in early February. They will continue to hang throughout March as part of his solo attempt to bring art to the people.

Initial inspiration: Carlton said it all started as he was looking at the mural work of Neil Jones (which garnishes the old Woolworth building) and said, "My huge black and white drawing would look great there."

"I approached Gary Ferguson, director of the Haverhill downtown partnership with the idea, and he agreed that it was a good idea for the downtown area," he said. "So I started to approach retail stores with the idea of displaying my art in their windows."

Over 12 locations, ranging from banks to the Salvation Army, have agreed to display his works.

"The response has really been terrific," Carlton said. "The businesses are recognizing this as a low-cost way to spruce up the

downtown area and bring in people. It invites people to look in the windows."

Carlton works with a technique called frapping, which is a stamping process in which bits of material are used to absorb oil-based paint and transfer a textured image to the canvas. Although this process is used by other artists, his technique is unique.

Different approach: Carlton's chief material for printing is rubber, but not just any rubber. More specifically, scraps of rubber which he finds on the side of the road are used.

His use of old tire scraps or "roadkill rubber" is a reflection of his work, which uses the bustle and squalor of the city as its central theme.

"I started looking for and finding the urban landscape," said Carlton, an Ohio native, who moved to Boston to obtain his master's in fine arts. "I devised various figures, which I made urban anti-heroes."

Characters he calls "Lookstep People," reflect the various personalities he has observed in the city, such as "Toll Evader," "Meter Molester" and the "Urban Hunter," who evolved one night after sighting a band of college students chasing and bashing a pack of rats for entertainment.

Complements architecture: Carlton has chosen downtown Haverhill as an appropriate location to feature his work since the majority of it features the Queen Ann architecture of the mills along the Merrimack



One-man art show comes to city

File photo

GIVING A NEW LOOK to the downtown Haverhill area with his art work is Jack Carlton.

River.

"I have a fascination with bricklaying because of the refuse I find in the streets," he said. "It looks like bricks and I feel like a bricklayer. Haverhill has a lot of reasons to care about its history because it's still here."

Carlton described his work as spontaneous.

"I found people receptive and just kept going," he said. "I look at buildings, draw them on a drawing board, rearrange them at home and start stamping away."

More successful?: He hopes his next project, a series of fences and screens, built commercially for interior and exterior display, will be more successful than his last.

"I got killed in Akron," he said, referring

to his last exhibit in November at the Collaboration Gallery in Ohio. "The price of getting the rather large works out there was over \$2,000 and I still haven't made it up."

But Carlton is not easily dissuaded.

"Without exhibiting your work, it is like an opera singer performing only in the shower," he said.

In addition to his frapping work, he is also known for his artist books which he designs and illustrates. His most famous, *Love Album*, was recently purchased by the Houghton Rare Books Library at Harvard University and featured in a presentation at the McNey Museum Artist Book Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

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Attention Environmentalists!

A new on-campus club is seeking environmentally-concerned students to become members.

The dissolved Student Environmental Coalition has recently been re-incarnated into the **Environmental Concerns Organization (ECO)**.

A winter bird-feeding program on campus is its first project.



For more information,
contact adviser **Anne Laszlo** in C-396.

BY HEATHER SHELDON
Observer Staff Reporter

Tom Laughlin, who wrote, produced, directed and starred in the *Billy Jack* movies, is running for president.

However, this Democratic candidate said the presidency is not his ultimate goal.

Instead Laughlin hopes his "true grassroots movement" (Laughlin employs one part-time staffer and passes the hat for donations at his open houses), will create a fundamental change in the U.S. government.

"The future of the country utterly depends on breaking the strangle hold of the money interests and the lobbyists over the professional politicians and return it to the citizen legislature," he said.

Time for change: Laughlin believes Americans are sick and tired of the professional politician. At a recent Laughlin open house, one New Hampshire resident said he had not voted since 1972, simply because there was never anyone worth voting for. However, when he saw Laughlin on one of his many WMUR programs, he registered to vote.

According to Laughlin, this is a small example of the support he is getting in New Hampshire.

"By the first week of January, the Democratic party people here in New Hampshire, unofficially, quietly told me that I had already passed Harkin, Wilder and Brown," he said.

Now, Laughlin says the results of his campaign's 1,200 person phone poll shows that 70 to 80 percent are undecided or have negative attitudes against the five "major" democrats. Laughlin also said the poll showed promising results in areas he has reached with his message.

"In the places where my TV spots are seen and I speak publicly, I have twice as many votes as Kerry, 50 percent more votes than Clinton and I am the only Democrat who is beating Bush," he said.

In the clear: Polls performed by major networks and news agencies show Bill Clinton with a comfortable lead over any candidate covered in the "other" category, where runners other than the top five, like Laughlin, are filed.

Laughlin is not allowed to participate in the democratic debates with the five front-runners. The only justification for this exclusion, Laughlin said, was not being a professional politician.

"This feeble argument says that the American people cannot possibly have the intelligence and ability to solve our problems," he said.

When Laughlin was turned away for a second debate on Jan. 16, he reserved the hour following the debate on WMUR, a Manchester, N.H. television station.

Billy Jack runs for president

Hopes to move from box office to Oval Office

"That was bought, contracted for and in place for five weeks," he said. "Then on Jan. 13, they called and canceled."

Pressing charges: Laughlin filed suit against WMUR for an act he calls a denial of free speech. He is also filing suit against Clinton's campaign, who Laughlin feels is behind the cancellation.

WMUR public relations representative Kristi Chapman said that candidates do not have anything to do with any decisions made at WMUR, and that Laughlin had been tentatively offered the time, but had not yet paid for it when the station canceled.

Chapman said candidates were sold time on WMUR after the debate that night.

"They're doing this because I'm not having an impact on the people who hear my message," Laughlin said.

If Laughlin's message actually carries him in New Hampshire, he says that two things will happen. One is that in the months following the primary, there will be a surge of non-politicians running for everything from the school board to congress.

Jaded views: "People will say, 'I don't need that much money,'" he said. "People are tired of politicians and are looking for real people."

Secondly, politicians will take notice of not only him, but his ideas, simply because they were the ideas people voted for and politicians will have to do what gets them votes, he said.

A few of the many ideas in Laughlin's platform include a tough policy on Japan, a middle-class tax cut and free national health care.

According to Laughlin's campaign literature, Japan has spent over \$4 million on Washington lobbyists, and in turn, received a \$5 million tax break on the importation of Japanese trucks coming into the United States. Laughlin then points to the 16 percent limit on the sale of Japanese cars in Europe and proposes the United States do the same.

"America would present Japan with an ultimatum," he said. "The number of Japanese cars sold in America would also be limited to 16 percent by 1993, unless the Japanese market was immediately, fairly and equally open to American products and business."

New strategy: Laughlin also claims to have the only plan to get the economy moving quickly—create a \$255 billion fund by selling U.S. Treasury Bonds, money that could only be used to create new businesses and expand existing ones. Laughlin feels this program is the only one that would generate immediate cash flow and create new jobs in the near future.

Whether the government could sell \$250 billion in bonds while the U.S. economy flounders is very much open to debate, however.

Laughlin recognizes the difficulty in dealing with the economy.

"The (recession) has just begun and as it stands there is no way out of it, especially under that clown we saw last night," Laughlin said, referring to the president's Jan. 28 state of the union address.

Laughlin's low opinion of politicians has not been changed by his latest experiences with them.

Disgusted: "These people are the most immoral, cowardly people I have ever met," he said. "I thought the motion picture business was filled with back stabbing, lying, human beings, but they're choir boys in comparison."

His films have given Laughlin's grassroots effort some of its momentum. He claims to have an 80 percent recognition rate, while other candidates only carry a 2 percent recognition rate outside of their own states. Laughlin's source of recognition has its drawbacks, however.

"They have used it to hurt me," he said. "They say that I'm an actor, and this is an ego trip, that I'm an aging, fat actor who now has delusions."

The 1971 release *Billy Jack* portrayed a half Native American martial arts expert who fought small town bureaucracy. Critics called the film's pacifism theme ridiculous considering all the violence it contained. Regardless, *Billy Jack* and its sequel *The Trial of Billy Jack* together grossed an estimated \$50 million.

In 1977, *Billy Jack Goes to Washington* bombed and became the final chapter in the Billy Jack saga.

Buckle Bear teaches kids about car safety

By JENNIFER FORZESE
Observer Features Editor

Buckle up!

Laughter filled the air as Buckle Bear entered Bright Horizons. Buckle Bear came to teach the children the safety of using safety-belts and car-seats in an event sponsored by the student health services.

Donna Montalbano, R.N., student health services, coordinated the day.

Importance of safety: "It was a nice demonstration," she said. "Children at that age do learn and it's important to teach them what safety is."

Nancy Fernandez, Bright Horizons director, said people are always welcomed to come in and talk to the children.

"I thought this demonstration would be fun for the children," she said. "We try to talk to the children about safety as well as hygiene."

Debbie Hughes, coordinator of the Haverhill Saving Lives program, said she had wanted to teach safety to the children in the

day care center.

Safety month: "During the month of February, we go around and talk about safety," she said. "It's also an on-going issue during the year. We help promote pedestrian safety as well as bicycle safety."

Buckle Bear explained to the children the importance of using the safety-belt. The children were questioned on safety-belt use. Out of the 18 children present, two said they didn't use them.

Parent Carol Norris said, "Buckle Bear was a cute idea; I was surprised to learn that two (children) didn't buckle up."

Only one parent attended the national child passenger safety demonstration.

Small turnout: "Unfortunately, we didn't get a good turnout from parents," Montalbano said. "This was to serve as a time for parents to ask questions about their car-seats and seat belts."

A demonstration was also done on how to use and wear a safety-belt. The safest place for a child to be is in the back seat with a seat belt



on.

"I was surprised to find that if the seat belt is choking the child that the shoulder harness should be put behind them," Montalbano said.

Child safety: Massachusetts law requires children under 12 to be fastened in a safety-belt or car-seat while in a motor vehicle.

Saving lives

File photo

CHILD SAFETY was the issue with Buckle Bear, portrayed by Helen Lamblopoulos, program assistant of the Haverhill Saving Lives program and Tom Norris, a Bright Horizons' preschooler.

Diane Ricciotti, spokesperson for the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau, said each state has child safety laws.

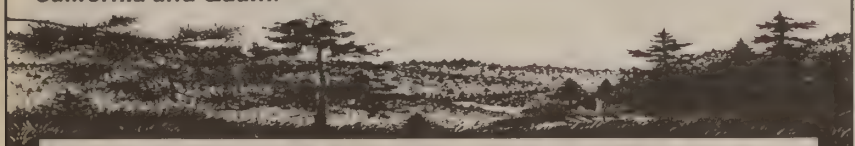
In Massachusetts, a person can be fined \$25 for every child 12 years old and younger that is not in a car seat or safety-belt.

"Every state has a fine and it varies from state to state," Ricciotti said.

The Artist's Pen

A newly published book by a local poet and artist
Richard Francis Dam

50 pages of drawings come alive with mammals, fish, birds, and others. Local area writings of Merrimac, Haverhill, and Hampstead included in 112 pages of inspirational poetic writings of old homestead living in New Hampshire, and cross-country travel adventures to Alaska, Massachusetts, Texas, Florida, Washington, California and Quam.



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Early years of rhythm and blues

Photo exhibition recalls artist's musical roots

The Early Years of Rhythm and Blues: The Photography of Benny Joseph will be on display in the NECC Gallery from March 2-26.

The photographs reflect the personal vision of Benny Joseph, a black photographer who lived and worked during a period of rapid social change and immense artistic creativity. Joseph's photographs are representative of a generation and its music, which grew to maturity in the 1950s and 1960s.

Joseph opened a photography studio in 1958, which served a broad clientele. He worked for African-American businesses and a chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). His body of work, as represented in this exhibition, includes portraiture, as well as commercial and documentary photographs of churches, parades, politics, social groups, dances and musicians.

"The photographs focus on the cultural context in which rhythm and blues music developed," said Arthur Signorelli, NECC's gallery coordinator.

Improved understanding: "While visitors to the gallery will enjoy the photographs of rhythm and blues musicians such as B. B. King, Mahalia Jackson, Junior Parker and Della Reese, they will walk away with an appreciation of the everyday lifestyle and community of the musicians and their audience," he said. "The significance of this exhibit reaches beyond the history of this form of music; it becomes a study of photography, folklore and African-American life and culture."

In addition to the exhibition, a series of events are scheduled in the gallery focusing on the history of Rhythm and Blues:

The Shirley Lewis Experience! Sunday, March 15, 2 p.m.

Classic performances: Be prepared for an emotion-packed afternoon of music with Shirley Lewis. Lewis, a Newburyport native will perform music of blues greats such as Etta James and B.B. King. Lewis will, with an unbridled

falsetto, combine Memphis-style confessional blues with enough of the Southern gospel/rhythm & blues feelings to blow the audience away.

Acclaimed: Lewis was nominated for outstanding blues act for 1990, the 1991 Boston Music Awards and winner of the 1989 Battle of the Blues Bands held at Harper's Ferry in Boston (co-sponsored by the NECC Foundation).

Gallery talk: The Early Days of Rhythm & Blues:

Thursday, March 19, 2 p.m.

Popular blues and jazz musician Ben Baldwin will explore the cultural context and everyday life in which rhythm & blues music has developed.

Blues Breakfast with Ben Baldwin and the Bignote:

Sunday, March 22, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Morning music: Come and join Ben Baldwin and the Bignote, one of the area's most popular jazz bands, for a morning of food and a rhythm & blues performance.

This group will perform rhythm and blues favorites from the 1940s and 1950s such as *Straighten Up and Fly Right* by Nat King Cole, *Perdido* by Duke Ellington, *Two for the Blues* by Count Basie and *This Little Girl of Mine* by Ray Charles. Tickets will cost \$12.50. Advance ticket purchase is strongly suggested.

Concert: From Rhythm & Blues to Jazz:

Thursday, March 26, 2 p.m.

The New England Conservatory Honors Jazz Ensemble, a versatile group of the New England Conservatory's best jazz musicians, will perform a wide selection of compositions, tracing the evolution of music from the early days of rhythm & blues to modern jazz music.

Located in the library building, the NECC gallery is open to the public from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturdays and 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays. For weekday hours and further information, contact Signorelli, NECC's gallery coordinator, at 374-3706.



Living the blues

Benny Joseph photos

NO MUSICAL style has a history as colorful and enduring as the blues. From guitar virtuoso B.B. King, top, and his trusty sax Lucille to the new masters of the genre like The Shirley Lewis Experience, left, the blues continue to enjoy a popularity that defies both time and changing fads.

Los Años Mozos de Ritmo & Blues



File photo
Ben Baldwin to appear at the NECC gallery next month.

Los Años Mozos de Ritmo & Blues:

La Fotografía de Benny Joseph
Desde el 2 al 26 de Marzo

Esta exhibición enfoca el contexto cultural en que se desarrolla la música de ritmo & blues. Rostros familiares como esos de B. B. King, Mahalia Jackson, Junior Parker y Della Reese fueron captados en filmica por el fotógrafo Benny Joseph.

Sumado a eso, hay documentos de la vida cotidiana y la comunidad de los músicos y su audiencia, incluyendo emisiones de radio KCOH, promoción de grabaciones, saltos juveniles y danzas regulares en las pistas legendarias de baile de los años 50 y 60.

La Experiencia de Shirley Lewis!

Domingo, 15 de Marzo, 2 p.m.

Prepárese para una tarde de grandes emociones musicales con Shirley Lewis. En interpretaciones musicales de estrellas de blues como lo son Etta James y B. B. King, Lewis habrá de combinar—en falseto vertiginoso—

los arreglos de blues al estilo Memphis, con cuantiosos ritmos evangélicos del sur y sentires de blues, con el fin de producir explosiva conmoción en el público. Lewis fue nominado en 1990 por su interpretación de blues; galardonado en 1991 con premios musicales (Boston Music Awards), y en 1989 ganó la Batalla de las Orquestas de Blues (1989 Battle of the Blues Bands), celebrada en Harper's Ferry de Boston. (Patrocinado por la Fundación NECC.)

Tertulia en la Galería: Los Primeros Días de Ritmo y Blues:

Jueves, 19 de Marzo, 2 p.m.

Explore el contexto cultural y la vida cotidiana en que se desarrollan ritmo y blues.

Desayuno animado por cantares de blues, con Ben Baldwin y los Bignote:

Domingo, 22 de Marzo, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Venga y únase a Ben Baldwin y los Bignote, una de las más populares orquestas de jazz en el área, para que usted pueda disfrutar una

mañana de exquisitos alimentos, y simultáneamente, de un acto especial de música ritmo & blues. El grupo musical interpretará Ritmo y Blues preferidos en los años 40 y 50, entre éstos *Straighten Up y Fly Right*, de Nat King Cole; *Perdido*, de Duke Ellington; *Two for the Blues*, de Count Basie, y *This Little Girl of Mine*, de Ray Charles.

Admisión: \$12.50. Es aconsejable obtener sus entradas por adelantado.

Concierto: Desde Ritmo y Blues hasta el Jazz:

Jueves, 26 de Marzo, 2 p.m.

El Conservatorio de Nueva Inglaterra (Honors Jazz Ensemble), un grupo versátil que está entre los mejores músicos del Conservatorio de Nueva Inglaterra, interpretará una gran selección de composiciones, enmarcando la evolución de la música desde los años mozos de ritmo & blues hasta la música moderna de jazz.

'Wayne's World'

Mike Myers creates colorful world beyond his public access basement

By BILL BURKE
Observer Managing Editor

Wayne's World: a flaccid tale of two gimps. A film devoid of humor which quickly devolves into a futile exercise in satirization.—NOT "fished in!"

Mike Myers, creator of *Wayne's World*, takes the viewer on a whirlwind tour through the hilariously warped world of Wayne Campbell (Myers) and his quirkily hyperactive sidekick, Garth Algar (Dana Carvey).

Together, the two produce a weekly public access cable TV show. The early days of *Wayne's World* have been widely chronicled on *Saturday Night Live*, where both Myers and Carvey are both cast members.

Brought in: The movie now takes *Wayne's World* one step further. Instead of limited glimpses into the Campbell basement, viewers are given a 24-hour-a-day experience as seen through the eyes of Wayne and Garth.

At the start of the movie, Myers smashes the proverbial "third wall" by addressing the camera directly. This concept is not new, but it is effective. It gives the film an informal tone, and may be the sole reason it succeeds—*Wayne's World* doesn't take itself too seriously.

Rob Lowe stars as a slimy TV executive bent on exploiting Wayne and Garth's creation. After seeing the show on late night TV, Lowe signs Wayne and Garth to a contract, thus effectively owning the show. Wayne decides to fight back when forced to shamelessly plug a sponsor (Brian Doyle-Murray), in a raucous scene that spoofs product placement and movie advertising.

Too sharp for the slick-talking Lowe, the duo set out to reclaim their integrity. Meanwhile, Wayne gets involved with singer Tia Carerre, and lusts over a fine Fender

Stratocaster ("It will be mine, oh yes, it will be mine.") plays street hockey with Garth, and spends his time fending off Lowe's underhanded advances.

High ambitions: Myers, in creating Wayne Campbell, has captured the essence of the 18-25-year-old Everyman. That is, everyman that still lives with his parents, has no real hope of meaningful employment, yet finds himself king of his own limited world. Wayne admits to having held many jobs, yet nothing approaching career.

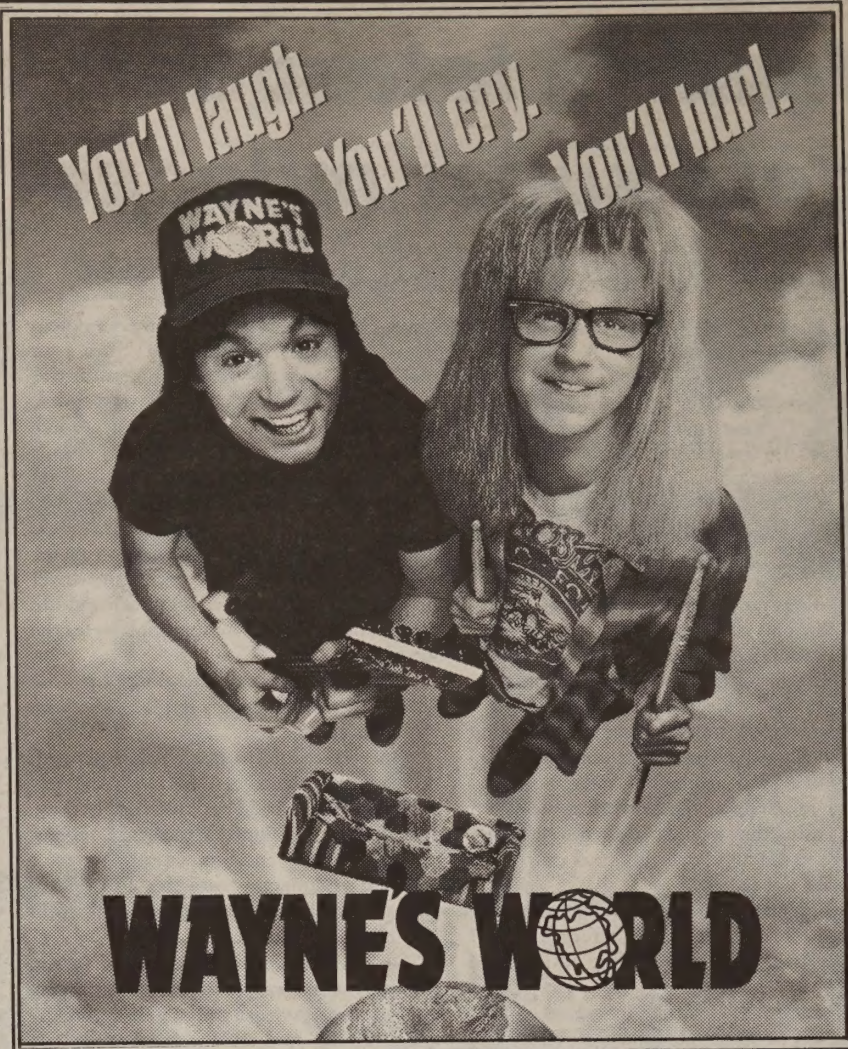
"I have an extensive collection of name tags and hair nets," he says. A situation that many in today's economy can, sadly enough, relate to.

Throughout the movie, the characters take part in an endless succession of sight gags that assault the viewer at the speed of light.

From *Bewitched* and *Laverne and Shirley* to *Scooby Doo*, there are few television era icons that escape the caustic wit of writers Bonnie and Terry Turner and Myers.

One of the more hilarious moments in the film comes when Wayne, Garth and their buddies go for a cruise in a baby blue Pacer known as the "mirth mobile." The group begins to sing along with Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody*, an operatic song that taxes even the most trained voice. They sing with such fervor, that one of their comatose friends finds new life and joins in on the riotous affair.

Good help: A myriad of cameo roles appear throughout the movie. Sherrie-Lyn Fenn of *Twin Peaks*, Ed O'Neil of *Married with Children*, Meatloaf, Chris Farley of *Saturday Night Live*, Alice Cooper, and legendary



hockey player Stan Mikita all take part in the festive affair.

At one point, Wayne is pulled over for speeding. The officer approaches and removes his helmet.

"Have you seen this boy?" the T-1000 asks while showing Wayne a photo. Even the indestructible villain of *Terminator 2* finds

his way into the movie.

In short, *Wayne's World* succeeds on many levels due to its self-effacing humor and its willingness to look at life a bit differently.

Myers has put together a film that pokes fun at young people and their popular culture without taking a patronizing tone. Only a sphincter boy wouldn't like it.

In 'Final Analysis,' this one's a turkey

By AMY BOARDMAN
Observer Arts & Entertainment Editor

The question you will ask yourself all through Phil Joanou's new film, *Final Analysis*, is "What time is it?"

Richard Gere and Kim Basinger team up once again for this so-called thriller, which is guaranteed to bore audiences. It seems like yesterday the two acted together in *No Mercy*, another steamy thriller, set in the Bayou.

Final Analysis revolves around three people: Isaac Bar, played by Gere (*Pretty Woman*); Heather Evans, played by Basinger (*Batman*); and Diana, played by Uma Thurman (*Dangerous Liaisons*).

Talent wasted: With such well-known actors, the audience might expect a good film. Wrong. Isaac Bar is a well-known San

Francisco psychiatrist, who buries himself in his work to forget his personal life, or lack thereof. He treats a patient claiming to have reoccurring dreams and a terrible childhood. The patient, Diana, makes it obvious through sexual dialogue that she is interested in her doctor. Every scene at the office becomes predictable and adds to the slowness of the picture. Through Diana, Bar meets Heather Evans, Diana's beautiful sister.

Evans is caught in a bad marriage to a mobster. She and Bar meet, and almost from the start, begin an affair. The film tries to persuade the audience into believing the two have a meaningful relationship when they have only known each other a few days. Evans rarely escapes from her husband, and sneaks around to meet the doctor.

This film endures more plot twists than

the hairpin turns of the Swiss Alps. Once one thinks the movie is ending, it just continues on. If the film could be taken seriously at all, sudden shifts in plot lines might seem more bearable, but this does not occur.

Cheap tricks: During the second hour of *Final Analysis*, the action picks up and brings a small amount of relief. Nonetheless, the action brings itself down a few notches because it bears no reflection on real life. In one scene, it's pouring rain and a car hits a small ditch. Suddenly, the car accelerates and ends up in the bay about 100 yards away. It sounds exciting, but looks fake.

Thurman proved she could act in *Dangerous Liaisons*, then a film like this comes around and she's annoying instead. It seemed at times that her character really could have been eliminated, until a plot twist appears.

Basinger acts in her usual role of the abused woman depending on the kindness of strangers. Nothing new here except her lip injections.

Unfortunate role?: Gere puts out a believable performance, but it ends there. His character is basically idiotic. He falls for the oldest tricks in the book, and he is supposed to be the curer of ill minds.

Obviously, someone in Hollywood thinks the team of Basinger and Gere is bankable. Perhaps they are, but if flops like this keep popping up, the video store will be their own personal box office.

If *Final Analysis* looks interesting, save some money and time and rent a Hitchcock film. It's more fun to watch, and you might stay awake.

Griffith, Douglas strong in 'Shining Through'



By AMY BOARDMAN
Observer Arts & Entertainment Editor

A Harvard graduate and a daughter of immigrants learn to trust each other, giving life to David Seltzer's latest film, *Shining Through*.

Michael Douglas and Melanie Griffith star in this romantic spy movie. Douglas plays Tom Leland, a military spy posing as a New York City lawyer. Griffith plays a bilingual secretary fighting her way in a world filled with Vassar graduates.

New homes: The film begins in New York, introducing the audience to Voss and her family. Her father emigrated from Germany and her mother from Ireland. At a young age, Voss learned from her father never to speak German outside of the home, because according to her father, people would think she was a German sympathizer. As she enters the job market, it turns into an asset.

The audience first sees Leland on a busy New York street asking an anti-war

demonstrator to move on. Coincidentally, this also is the point where Voss first sees him. At this sighting she immediately is intrigued and impressed by his strong presence.

When Voss begins working for Leland, it does not take her long to figure out he is a spy. Through the office relationship, they eventually fall in love. The timing is bad, however, as the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor and Leland flies to Europe.

Time elapses and with some fast talking, Voss becomes a spy and moves to Germany.

Good action: At first glance, *Shining Through* might seem like the cliched World War II romance movie. Not so this time. This film grabs ones interest from the beginning and moves quickly along until the end. The film is extremely intense during some scenes.

The picture is well-directed and the scenes filmed in Germany are wonderful. The audience gets a good sense of what daily European life is like.

The costume design is spectacular. During one scene, Voss attends the opera with a Nazi officer, and the gown she wears is beautiful.

After the opera Voss finds herself running in the middle of the night. During this scene it's raining, yet she presses on and makes it to the city with the gown and heels still on.

The entire scene is done beautifully. However without the dress it would not have carried as much meaning. In *Shining Through*, the costumes reflect the era with a great amount of style and the actors wear them with flair.

Well cast: Douglas pulls off his character with ease. Leland is a likable guy with a lot going for him. At times, he comes across as a jerk, but one quickly forgets these scenes as the nice guy prevails. Actually, one might classify Leland as a hero. He risks his life for a woman and doesn't think twice about doing so.

Griffith gives a good performance as well. During the film one is hard-pressed to find her over-dramatizing her part. This is refreshing in today's market. Voss is a likable character always ready with the clever remark, and Griffith gives her a spark.

Shining Through is a winner.

File photo
MICHAEL DOUGLAS and Melanie Griffith star in *Shining Through*.

Japan's latest car gets super mileage

Honda brings high tech to mass market

By RICHARD HOYER-ELLEFSEN
Observer News Editor

Americans angry at Japanese competition eroding U.S. auto sales have to get one thing straight: the only crime the Japanese have committed against America is making attractive, pleasant cars Americans enjoy buying. Cars like Honda's new Civic.

Introduced in September, Honda offers four, all-new Civic models boasting engine technology previously found only in Honda's \$60,000 plus NSX supercar. The system varies valve timing according to engine speed, allowing the maker to build an engine with an exceptionally wide powerband.

Sacrifices made: Fixed valve timing forced the maker to make a compromise in the powerband: an engine strong at one end of the rev range would be weak at the other. Most often they would choose tuning somewhere in the middle, losing peak output for the sake of balance.

What does all this confusing, mumbo-jumbo, tech-talk mean to the buyer? Horsepower. In the case of the NSX, lots of it. And for those of us who aren't independently wealthy, it means a nice injection of juice into practical, affordable cars.

Honda's flagship Si and EX Civic models put out 125 horsepower out of 1.6 liter engines, 18 more than the last year's model. That's 20 more than Volkswagen gets out of a bigger, 1.8 liter engine.

New efficiency: The V-TEC system can also be used to increase fuel economy to unnatural levels. In the case of the Civic VX, Honda uses the V-TEC system and new

"lean-burn" technology to extract a ridiculous 48 miles per gallon (mpg) from a car making 92 horsepower. Building a car this efficient would have been nearly impossible before V-TEC, and if makers had succeeded, it would have been pathetically slow. Honda came close with the lighter, smaller two-seat CRX, but it only made a feeble 62 horsepower.

The driver of a Civic VX has no idea the car burns little more gas than many motorcycles. A roomy, tasteful interior greets the driver first. The seats are covered in attractive cloth, and provide excellent lumbar support for the lower back.

They have plenty of lateral support, too, holding the driver snugly in place when the road gets curvy.

Once seated, a small, air bag-equipped, non-adjustable steering wheel blocks the view to the top of gauges. That's too bad, because the car is well-equipped in this sense, serving up a tachometer and temperature gauge as standard equipment. Ventilation controls are thoughtfully laid out and positioned within easy reach of the driver.

On the road, the engine is able to run smoothly at unusually low speeds, where many engines would wheeze and bog. It'll willingly cruise at 2,000 rpm, and the driver needn't be bothered with shifting down should he or she need to accelerate. That's a good thing, too, because tall gearing keeps the engine running at those speeds most of the time. Honda knows this is where the best fuel economy lies with its new, high-tech engine.

Making waves: Of course, the real power is found higher, so for passing or swift acceleration more revs are needed. Perhaps the strangest thing about this engine is its



Richard Hoyer-Ellefsen photo

HONDA'S NEW Civic VX seems an unlikely use for a revolutionary new engine.

dual personality.

Usually, engines tuned to lug at low speeds are flat and lifeless when pushed. Not so for the VX, which provides the driver with plenty of power when it's asked to, though it can get a little loud.

The unassisted steering is fairly heavy, and the ride is firmer than one would expect in a subcompact. It's not unpleasantly firm; in fact, it's set just about right for drivers who enjoy a bit of spirited driving.

Is the little Honda flawless? No. The visibility out of the rear could be better; lane changes would feel safer with a little more glass back there.

Broken in: The throttle of the VX was slightly hesitant, reacting rather sluggishly. In fairness, the car had only been driven 14 miles, so some time on the road may eventually clear up the problem. The gearbox generally felt fine, though it did feel a little notchy at times; again a few hundred break-in miles would most likely clear this up. The clutch is light, with only a short travel to the floor.

Overall, the car has a tight, well buttoned-down feeling to it. It's an amusing car to drive, if for no other reason than the unique engine tone and its strange ability to dawdle, yet vault ahead when the driver wants to get going. It's a comfortable, pleasant car which feels like it would be a joy to live with.

Unless the Environmental Protection Agency misses its guess, it'll take 480 miles to drain the VX's 10-gallon tank, which means the car's best feature can really only be experienced through living with it for a while.

Performance

On the road, the engine is able to run smoothly at unusually low speeds, where many engines would wheeze and bog.

Scatterbrain dresses 'em down in concert

By BILL BLAISDELL
Observer Staff Reporter

Men in dresses and songs about vaginas were among the features of a Scatterbrain/Ugly Kid Joe concert.

On the recent *Scamboogery* tour across the United States, Elektra recording artist Scatterbrain has played some rather strange, yet exciting shows that feature fans jumping around as if their heads were chopped off.

Scatterbrain plays long sets of about 17 songs, and finishes the shows wearing dresses, covering Motley Crue's *Girls, Girls, Girls* as an encore.

Great variety: Among the songs Scatterbrain plays are *Scamboogery* and *Here Comes Trouble*. They also played fan-favorite tunes like *Down the Road*, *Grandma's House of Babes*, *Mozart Sonata*, and *Taste Just Like Chicken* from *Scamboogery*; and *Don't Call Me Dude* from *Here Comes Trouble*. The crowd went wild the entire show, especially during their newly released single, *Fine Line*.

Concert Review

This five-piece band from Long Island has a lot going for them, considering they've only been together 2 1/2 years, and have two albums.

Scatterbrain consists of Tommy Christ on vocals, Guy Brogna on bass, Mike Boyko on drums and Glen Cummings and Paul Nieder on guitars.

Following a successful tour of the states, the group is touring Europe, and plans to go to Australia.

"We hope to gain money, power and a gold record," Cummings said.

"As for future goals," Nieder said, "the band hopes to have no liver damage."

Opening for Scatterbrain in the states was Mercury recording artist, Ugly Kid Joe.

Newcomers U.K.J. has taken the music scene by storm. Only together 1 1/2 years, the band, which consists of Whitfield Crane

on vocals, Cordell Crockett on bass, Mark Davis on drums, and Klaus Eichstadt and Roger Lahr on guitars, has already released a smash single, *Everything About You*, and an EP, *As Ugly As They Wanna Be*.

Ugly Kid Joe played songs like *Won't You Be My Neighbor*, *Panhandling Prince*, *God Damned Devil* and *Whiplash Liquor* to an enthusiastic ecstatic crowd.

Stage-diving, music-crazed fans jammed from the beginning to the end of Ugly Kid Joe's set, not slowing down for a moment. Even when the band humiliated a select female from the audience, singing *The Vagina Song*, the crowd continued to go nuts.

Explicit lyrics or not, Ugly Kid Joe kept fans happy, and sometimes jammed cover songs like Harry Chapin's *Cat's in the Hat* to change the tempo of its fast, unique, stage-diving style.

Looking ahead: Ugly Kid Joe has many goals for the future, and has planned to achieve them.

"We wanna have fun, and sell a lot of

records," Crane said.

"We already achieved one band goal," Crockett said. "We'll be opening for Ozzy Osbourne in Long Beach, Calif. in a tribute to Randy Rhoads on March 27."

"If we aren't having fun, then it is time to quit," Crockett said.

Rising recognition: "For a band who derived its name from a busted-up gig with Pretty Boy Floyd, it has become very popular, very fast."

Ugly Kid Joe has finished touring with Scatterbrain, and will play in Daytona Beach in March at MTV's *Spring Break*.

After Daytona Beach, the band will record a new album, planned for late fall.

If either Scatterbrain or Ugly Kid Joe comes back in the area, take the time to see these bands live. It will be a strange experience.

Fantasy novel largely pointless

By ROBERT A. HOWARD
Observer Staff Reporter

Pools of Darkness is a surprisingly silly story describing the god Bane and his attempts to conquer the cities of the Moonsea, in *Forgotten Realms*.

Senseless violence: The story focuses on the city of Phlan, its defenders, and six strangers who have to trust each other before they can save the cities of the Moonsea.

The story starts with the god Bane raving about the deaths of some of his worshippers. This results in the senseless destruction of more of his worshippers, until several of his demonic advisers speak up and urge him to use his power on the cities of the Moonsea.

Bane does so, and the cities of the Moonsea and Phlan are hurled deep underground into massive caverns where hoards of evil monsters

try to overwhelm them. The defenders of Phlan easily repulse the invaders, and laugh in their faces.

This keeps up through much of the story, with the wizard Marcus trying to overwhelm the city of Phlan. When given the chance to use stealth and trickery, Marcus strikes out blindly, hoping to gain fame through force rather than brains.

Conniving evil: The only real threat to Phlan is Marcus' demonic adviser, Tanetal. Tanetal actually has some brains, and if it were not for the bungling of Marcus, Phlan would have surely fallen.

Indeed, when Marcus decides to let Tanetal attack Phlan, Tanetal doesn't raise a massive army, but takes on the guise of a simple bard. Sneaking into the city of Phlan, he convinces the citizens of Phlan to follow him to "safety" when he is finally revealed.

On the outside, the ranger Ren bands together with the sorceress Evaine, her changing cat, a duo of druids, and an undead, skeletal holy warrior. Together, they follow a trail of darkness and deceit until they finally find Phlan, and fight the wizard Marcus.

Intended humor: Surprisingly enough, while *Pools of Darkness* is a stupid, silly novel, something manages to make the story very funny. Maybe it's the demonic advisers to Bane, who sound like common street thugs, or the fact that every ally to the Red Wizard Marcus wants to kill him.

Whatever the reason, *Pools of Darkness* manages to remain quite humorous throughout the story to the credit of authors James M. Ward and Anne K. Brown. However, not every reader will enjoy the jokes, and *Pools of Darkness* may end up lying in some dark, dusty corner, forgotten.

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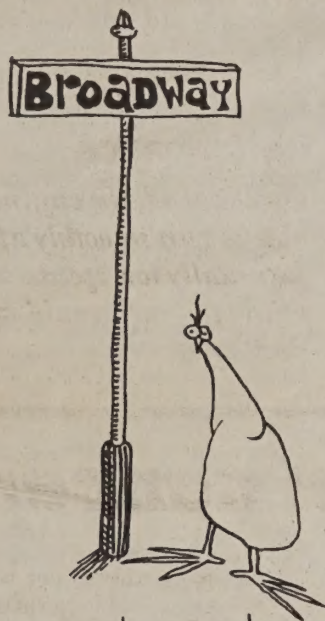
Call 374-3654
to schedule
an appointment.

Vermont cartoonist to appear in May

With a finely honed sense of the ridiculous, cartoonist Skip Morrow, well-known for his irreverent cartoon books, will exhibit original art works from May 4 to June 3 in the NECC gallery.

On display will be works from his *The Official I Hate Love Book*, which highlights the commercial overuse of the heart symbol to signify love; *The End*, which gives his own perspective - in a darkly humorous way - to the nuclear debate; and from his best-selling (six months on the *New York Times* bestseller list) *The Official I Hate Cats Book*, which pokes fun at all those people who treat their cats like humans, by showing cats reacting to extreme situations in a human way.

Also on display will be many unpublished works by Morrow, which focus on the human condition. See samples of Morrow's work below and in the next five issue of the *NECC Observer*.



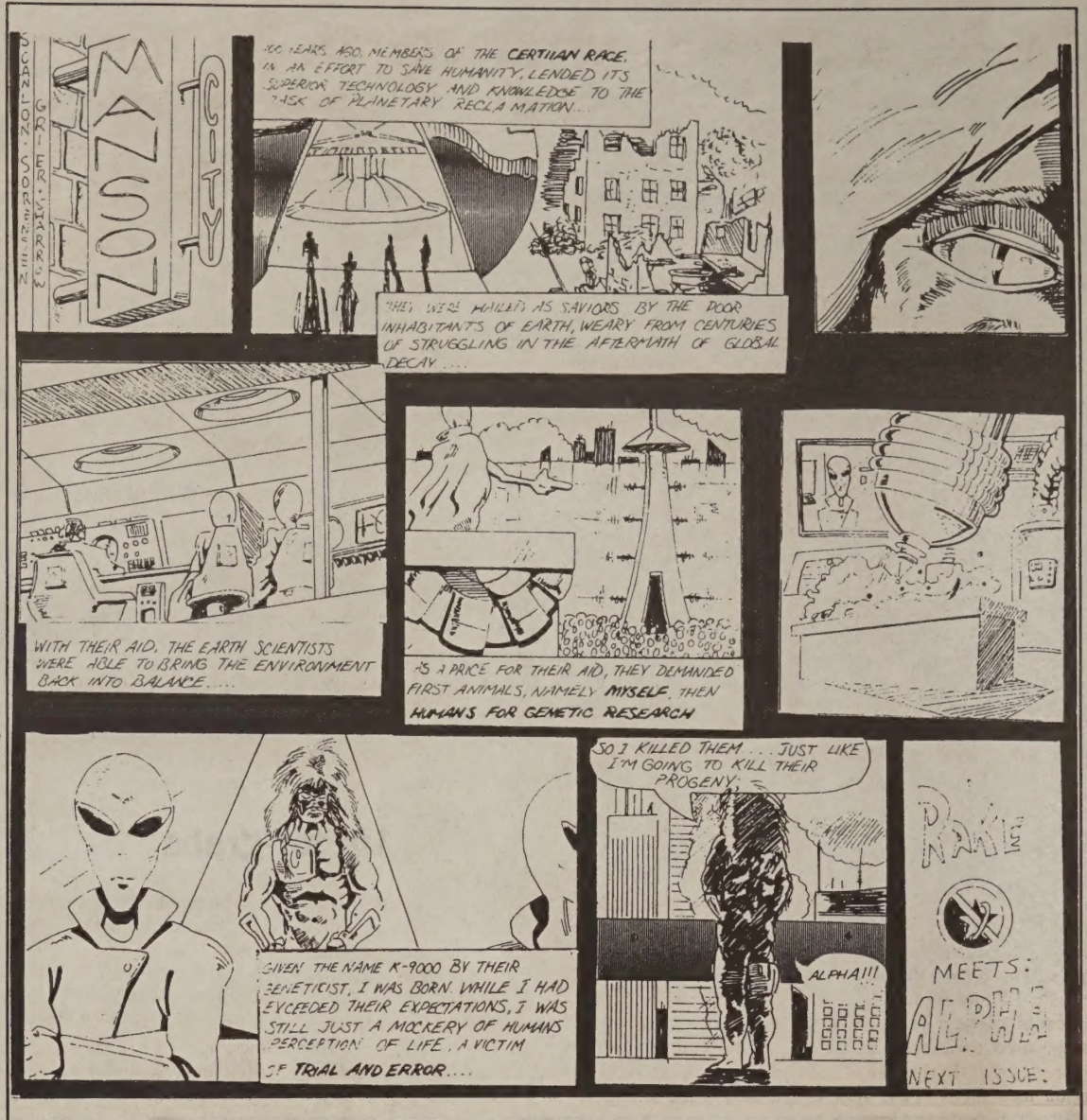
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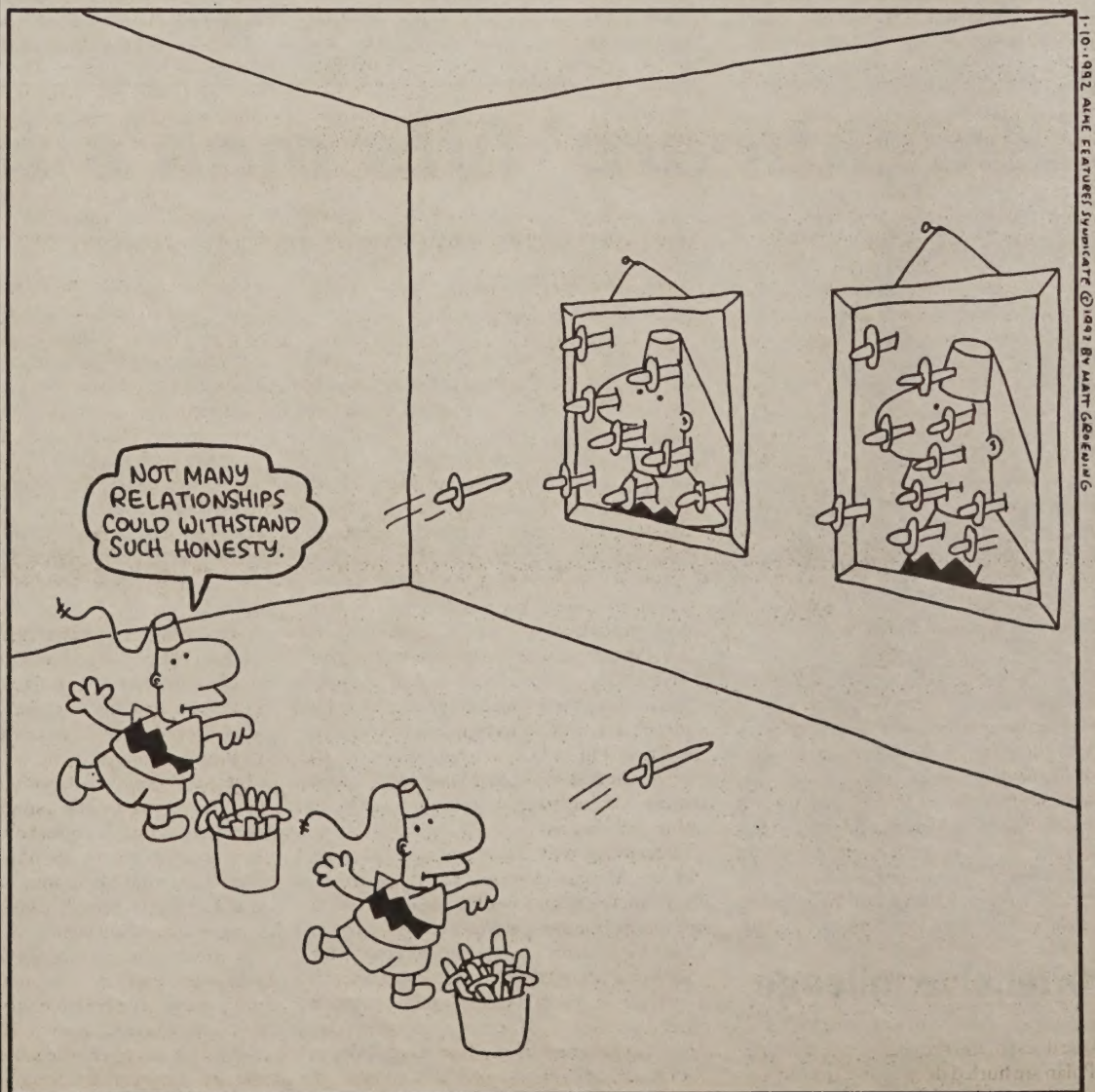


artificial bird
(very realistic)



LIFE IN HELL

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Women continue to dominate

Shoot for 20 win season; despite intensity problem, talent prevails

By ARTIE MURPHY
Observer Sports Editor

A baseball pitcher's seasonal goal is winning 20 games, and the same pertains to the 18-5 NECC women's hoop team.

After a friendly, sportsman-like beating of Ft. Devens, 101-50, the team is two games away from reaching its goal.

"I was surprised by our second-season performance," said Jack Hess, women's coach. "We just wanted to make sure that we were over .500. Now, winning 20 games is the plateau to strive for."

"We just want it too bad," said center Heather Preston, "It has been a goal of ours since the beginning of the season. Every practice we try to focus on winning 20 games."

The team is ranked seventh in the nation for division three and has an impressive 9-3 regional record.

Seeing double: Preston, Sherry Bannon, Tara Holtham, Nicole Melanson and Kerrie Timmons are all scoring in double figures.

Preston, Melanson and Holtham are also averaging over 10 rebounds per game.

Timmons leads the team with assists, averaging 6.19 and three-point shots with 35. Leann Reynolds follows in treys with 30 and Preston at 11.

Cannon Bannon: Bannon has been on an offensive roll from the floor, scoring at least 20 against Atlantic Union, Hanscom and Massasoit.

Despite outstanding statistical performances, the squad is worried about its fluctuating intensity level.

"The main thing we have to work on is our intensity," said Donna Johnson, assistant coach. "If it's there, we'll do fine. The team plays with a lot of heart and knows all the plays. It's just whether or not our intensity is there."

The team's lack of vigor was apparent in the first half of the Becker-Worcester game. After pulling Becker-Worcester along, leading 14-6 in the first eight minutes, the Lady Knights lost their slack. The Worcester team came within five points with under nine minutes to play.

Wake up call: Hess called a time out to discuss the problem. The team responded to the call by outscoring the opposition, 28-11. The Lady Knights led at the half 36-24.

In the second half, the team picked up the tempo and won 76-42.

"We were very low-key in the beginning and then we boosted our intensity," Bannon said.

"We all get psyched up for the games; it's just that we go in spurts and sometimes we can't get it together," Preston said. "In the second half, we are a lot more intense."

Bannon said the team must stay sharp throughout the game, especially in the upcoming regional tournament.

"If we play low-key against other teams, then we're in trouble," she said.

In previous games, the team beat Atlantic Union in a low-scoring 66-39 contest. Bannon led the team in points with 23, followed by Holtham at 16 and Reynolds with 11.

Visiting Newbury College was buried alive by the blue and gold during a Saturday matinee game. The Lady Knights only allowed "Newbury" nine first-half points. The NECC undertakers slowed down the pace, but still won 102-20.

New team: "Newbury is a new team in the league which only had five players throughout the game; three were missing," Hess said. "It gave us the opportunity to start players who usually don't start. We tried not to blow them out because we've been on both sides in games. We don't like to show up people."

NECC then played host to Hanscom Air Force Base when previously scheduled team, Dean Junior College, canceled its basketball program. Hanscom, a club team of former college players, fell behind early, 26-10.

After many Lady Knights' unforced errors, the Air Force club propelled to within one point at halftime, however.

"We played very well in the beginning, then we went brain dead," Hess said. "When



Up for grabs

ROLE PLAYER Shaye Fenton and forward Nicole Melanson hunt for the rebound.

Artie Murphy photo

you play a good team, you can't lose your intensity. They picked up on our unforced errors and low-percentage shots."

In the second half, NECC went on the offensive, scoring eight unanswered points and pressuring Hanscom's inbound passes. The team ended up defeating Hanscom 101-62.

Jet lag: "Our press took its toll on them," Hess said. "Then we used our 31-fly, which is non-direct defense on a player. We let them come in, like a spider does to a fly, and then we cover them with our hands up."

Massasoit was the next Lady Knight prey, losing 94-62. Five players, Bannon, Melanson, Holtham, Reynolds and Kim Knapp all scored in double figures.

The team's last two games are against rival

Endicott and the rejuvenated Quinsigamond squad. Last week, Quinsigamond beat the tough C.C.R.I. team.

"Quinsigamond is going to be the determining factor for our chance at winning 20 games," Preston said.

"With our talent, we should beat both teams," Johnson said. "But we can't take them lightly."

Practice, practice: Johnson said the team needs to work on both its outside and inside shooting as well as breakaway layups. She also said the players have a lot of heart during games and practices.

"They are a bunch of good kids, and they really put their hearts into the team," she said. "And hopefully that will help us near the end."

'Knightmare' hits men's team on road

Hoopsters struggle in late season travels

By ARTIE MURPHY
Observer Sports Editor

It was the worst of times, it was the worst of times. The NECC men's hoop team has struggled, losing three out of its last five games.

"We've been struggling in the last few games," said coach Mike Rowinski. "This is our low point of the season."

The team's latest Knightmare came from an away game against Quinsigamond College. Despite Knights' center Shawn Bassett's early foul trouble, the team came back from a nine-point deficit to lead at the half, 51-50.

"We outplayed them in the first half," Rowinski said. "Bassett only scored two points because he was on the bench for most of the game. It wasn't a good sign at the end of the half."

Fruendian slip: The Knights were then subjected to numerous and foul calls. The team received 30 foul calls and six technicals. Forward Eric Fruend, averaging 23 points per game, was leading the team offensively before he was ejected for cursing at the officials.

"The officiating was ridiculous!" Rowinski said. "But we didn't keep our composure and we lost our tempers."

Quinsigamond took advantage of the bad calls, winning 123-86.

The Knights did manage to squeak away with a win against Manchester, 80-68. The

team played well in the first half as it dominated Manchester, leading 46-23.

"We played excellent ball in the first half," Rowinski said. "Our guards played well and Eric had a good offensive first half."

Fruend led the team with 18 points, followed by Willie Miles at 17. Bassett and Tom Livingston each scored 10.

In the second half, the team fell asleep, as Manchester capitalized. The Connecticut squad closed the gap within a basket late in the contest. The Knights, however, maintained their lead by shooting a pair of key free throws.

Road kill: The team struggled on away games against Bunkerhill and C.C.R.I. Bunkerhill beat the Knights, 88-84. The game eventually became a forfeited win for NECC because of a Bunkerhill player's ineligibility.

The number-five, nationally ranked C.C.R.I. outplayed the Knights, 104-78.

"They are just a better team than we are," Rowinski said about the Rhode Island team. "They are very quick and aggressive. We just couldn't match up to their speed."

Rowinski also said the team is having a hard time dealing with opponents' defensive presses.

"Our guards haven't been playing well, especially against the press," he said. "I think some of it has to do with inexperience. We usually start with five freshmen, but hope-

fully, we'll learn from it."

Home thrashing: The Knights won an easy game against Newbury, 90-70. The team had a balanced attack from Bassett with 20 points, Fruend at 14, Adam Cannery with 12 and Miles at 10.

"The Newbury game was our typical game," Rowinski said. "We had balanced scoring and had control throughout the game."

Rowinski also said the team has an excellent home record, but tends to struggle on the road.

"We always struggle on the road, but we'll play anybody in our gym," he said.

The team has a record of 17-8 and will play in the regional tournament.

Road woes

"We always struggle on the road, but we'll play anybody in our gym," Rowinski said. "We've been struggling in the last few games. This is our low point of the season."



Offensive mileage

C. Evans photo

KNIGHTS' FORWARD Willie Miles aims for the hoop against Newbury.